

Labour would reverse cuts in income tax

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

Income tax cuts made by the Government in the run-up to the forthcoming general election would almost certainly be reversed if Labour gained power, Mr. Neil Kinnock indicated yesterday.

The Labour leader's warning came as a new survey disclosed that the Conservatives are well ahead not only in marginal seats they will be defending at the next election but also that Labour's tax plans do not have majority support in those key constituencies.

With electioneering in full swing as MPs return to Westminster today after the Christmas recess, Mr. Kinnock gave the strongest hint yet that Labour would be forced to look beyond recouping tax concessions worth £3.6 billion a year made to the rich in order to finance its programme.

"We do not consider that a cut in taxes—let us say Lawson took another 2p off the standard rate—should be written in stone. Neither do the British people," he said in an interview on BBC television's *This Week Next Week*.

Rather than having 1p or 2p off the standard rate of income tax, Mr. Kinnock said, voters preferred guaranteed high

standards of health care, education, training and opportunity.

If the Government carried out a "cheap gimmick" before the election by cutting income tax, the greatest beneficiaries would be those on top incomes, the Labour leader said.

But the huge majority of people on incomes up to £10,000 would have the two

people want to see those bills paid and not scattered to the wind."

A Labour government would "levy what was necessary" in a fair manner to ensure those bills were paid. "Part" of the way of achieving that was to ensure high earners, who had benefited enormously under the Thatcher Government, paid a proper contribution towards meeting those bills.

But Mr. Kinnock's view of the wishes of the electorate, and his determination to fight the next election on the handling of the economy, was out of time with a poll conducted for independent television's *Weekend World* into the voting intentions and thoughts of voters in marginal seats currently held by the Conservatives, which Labour must gain if they are to win the election.

The survey showed that in 92 key constituencies where Labour is the main challenger, the Conservatives have a 6 per cent lead. On the basis of those results Labour would be likely to win only 15 of the seats.

A surprising 66 per cent of voters in the marginals believe Mrs. Thatcher will win the next election.

Almost two thirds of those interviewed in the *Weekend World* poll did not believe the Government would be better managed under Labour.

Only one in six voters thinks Labour has been transformed by Mr. Kinnock into a modern and dynamic party worthy of trust.

Mr. Kinnock said he was not aware of any extra quid in your pocket.

"All those bills have to be paid. Nothing is for nothing. We know that the British

Radice deadline for grammar schools

By John Clark, Education Correspondent

Grammar schools will be "pleased out" within two years of a Labour government taking office, Mr. Giles Radice, the party's spokesman on education, said yesterday.

It is the first time Mr. Radice has set a time limit on ending the 11-plus which, more than 20 years after the party first tried to abolish it, is still practised by nearly a third of local education authorities in England and Wales.

There are about 150 grammar schools, catering for more than 100,000 pupils.

Mr. Radice, speaking at a Fabian Society conference at Ruskin Hall, Oxford, repeated Labour's pledge to abolish tax concessions for fee-paying schools, including charitable status. He said that would also be done within two years of the party taking office.

Losing charitable status would cost 2,500 independent schools about £30 million a year.

Labour has already announced that it will immediately abolish the assisted places scheme, under which the Government buys places at independent schools for

22,000 children from low-income families at a cost of about £25 million a year.

The two moves would be a severe blow to the independent sector, which educates more than half a million pupils. However, Mr. Radice said, demand would be likely to remain strong.

Mr. Radice interviewed later on the BBC Radio Four programme *The World This Weekend*, said: "We take the view that private schools are divisive and are taking up too much attention and resources."

"We think that if the private schools are so good then they ought to be able to stand on their own two feet without help from the state."

Mr. Radice also accused Mr. Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, of having worked out no proposals for improving the education system but instead putting up a "thick smoke-screen" to hide the real issues, which included a lack of investment in schools, a shortage of books and equipment, and the "rock-bottom" morale of teachers.

Mr. Radice said the Kremlin had stated in a letter that Mr. Vorontsov had been appointed because the Soviet leadership believed the next round of arms control talks would be crucial to the future

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Nuclear weapons transporter skids into field



Rescue workers use cranes to lift the 20-ton transporter from the field where it lay after skidding off a country lane. (Photograph: Julian Herbert)

Recovery of stricken truck lasts 18 hours

By Peter Davenport, Defence Correspondent

An official inquiry was under way last night into the accident in which a military transporter carrying nuclear weapons skidded off a road in Wiltshire and landed on its side in a farmer's field.

The vehicle was recovered 18 hours after the incident following an elaborate and delicate lifting operation that took place behind a cordon of police and troops who sealed off the area.

Last night the convoy had reached its undisclosed destination, the vehicle being towed the rest of the way. Ministry of Defence officials refuse to disclose the exact details of the load being carried, but reliable sources said that nuclear weapons, probably depth charges, were on board.

Mr. Roger Freeman, the Under-Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, yesterday rejected suggestions that the accident had posed any danger to the public. He would not confirm nor deny details of the cargo.

All precautions and safeguards covering such movements are laid down by the Nuclear Weapons Safety Committee which reports to Mr. George Younger, the Secretary of State for Defence.

Mr. Freeman added that a Board of Inquiry had been immediately set up to examine details of the accident, which occurred on Saturday afternoon on an icy, unpaved country lane between the villages of West Grimstead and West Dean.

The accident happened as the four-vehicle convoy, under military escort, was negotiating the narrow lane. One of the 20-ton Mammoth Major weapons containers skidded on the ice, slewed off the road down a ditch and overturned in a field.

A second lorry was prevented from following the same route by the skilful responses of its driver.

Continued on page 16, col 3

Director's letter to Guinness lawyers toppled chairman

By Lawrence Lever

Mr. Ernest Saunders was forced to stand aside as chairman and chief executive of Guinness owing to the contents of a letter written by Mr. Olivier Roux, the Guinness finance director.

The letter repeats the testimony that Mr. Roux had given to the Department of Trade and Industry inspectors and sets out the full extent of the price support operation carried out by Guinness and Morgan Grenfell, its merchant bank adviser, during the bid for Distillers.

It is understood that Mr. Roux's letter, which was sent last week to Sir David Napley, Guinness's lawyer, makes it clear that Mr. Saunders was fully aware of the price support operation.

The letter cost Mr. Saunders the support of the Guinness board, a particular, the executive directors, who had until then been firmly behind their chairman, were taken completely by surprise by its contents when the letter surfaced last week.

The form of Mr. Saunders' departure—standing aside rather than resigning—was largely chosen on the advice of Lazard's, the merchant bank called in to advise the company on the DTI investigation.

Sir John Knott, Lazard's chairman, is understood to have been involved.

The concern of Lazard's and the Guinness board was that the outcome of the DTI inquiry should not be anticipated.

Mr. Roux is expected to resign at the meeting. He has already been given leave of absence.

The chairmanship is expected to pass to Sir Norman Macfarlane, one of the five independent non-executive directors.

Mr. Roux's letter, which precipitated Mr. Saunders' downfall, may be linked to further information given to the inspectors last week by Mr. Roger Seelig, the Morgan Grenfell financier who was forced to resign.

Mr. Seelig is understood to have sent supplementary written details to the inspectors of the price support operation carried out by Morgan Grenfell for Guinness.

Continued on page 16, col 1

French strikes crumble

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The French Prime Minister, M. Jacques Chirac, appeared last night to have won a much-needed victory in his protracted battle against industrial unrest, as the transport and electricity supply strikes began to peter out.

Railway and Paris public transport services began to return to normal, and all but one of the electricity workers' unions called for an end to their highly unpopular six-day-old strike.

The conservative Government has maintained a firm, not to say intransigent, stand against the unions throughout the past month of simmering unrest and crippling strikes which caused nationwide transport chaos, brought many businesses to a halt and provoked a level of public anger not seen for many a year in France.

Spontaneous demonstrations against the strikes continued throughout the country over the weekend. Many of the shopkeepers, businessmen and mothers who have been occupying electricity offices, staging sit-downs in town centres and marching with banners demanding "the freedom to work" have never taken part in a protest movement before.

Conservative MPs in the capital have called on Parisians to demonstrate their "exasperation" at a mass demonstration outside the Palais Royal today.

The Socialist had accused M. Chirac of hypocrisy in calling for restraint and yet

Continued on page 16, col 8

Chaos as east wind blows cold

By a Staff Reporter

The worst weather of the winter yesterday brought freezing temperatures, chaos on the roads and disruption to rail services as thermometers dropped to minus 10 degrees centigrade.

Britain joined the rest of northern Europe in experiencing bitterly cold weather blown in from Scandinavia. Forecasters said that although minimum temperatures had probably been reached, the cold snap would continue this week, bringing more snow.

Eastern counties were worst hit and the south-east also suffered. The lowest temperature of -10C was recorded in Marham, Norfolk, and Holme Moss, South Yorkshire.

Six inches of snow was reported in parts of Suffolk and Essex and heavy snow also fell across Kent, Sussex, Surrey, and the Grampian region of eastern Scotland.

Police said there were 10 crashes yesterday on a 15-mile stretch of the M25 in Essex, made treacherous by patches of sheet ice.

Essex police said: "The biggest problem we have is not the ice, it's the drivers. Police cars cruising at 30mph trying to slow down the traffic have been overtaken on the outside and the inside."

There was also a spate of accidents on the M20 in Kent. British Rail southern region took the unusual step of advising travellers to stay at home unless their journeys were absolutely necessary, as the bitter cold forced delays and cancellations.

Continued on page 16, col 6

INSIDE Gulf War fighting worsens

The battle on the Gulf War's southern front intensified yesterday, with both Iran and Iraq launching missile attacks on military and civilian targets.

Iran said its missiles hit Iraq's two biggest cities, Baghdad and Basra. It said Iraq rockets hit three towns in western Iran.

Reports from the two sides say the number of dead and wounded since Friday is more than 60,000.

£12m for Aids

A further £12 million is to be spent on the treatment and counselling of Aids patients. The money will go to regional health authorities. Page 3

Freedom curb

Nicaraguans enjoyed the freedom enshrined in their new constitution for only three hours before President Ortega reintroduced a five-year-old state of emergency. Page 8

IN PART 2

PEP up

Investors could pump £1.5 billion into the stock market through Personal Equity Plans, which are attracting an unexpected degree of public interest. Page 17

Forest out

Crystal Palace, of the second division, caused an upset in the third round of the FA Cup when they beat first division Nottingham Forest 1-0. Non-League Telford lost 2-1 to Leeds and Luton drew 0-0 with Liverpool. Page 34

Testing time

England ended the second day of the final Test match against Australia in Sydney struggling on 132 for five. Earlier Australia were all out for 343. Page 34

Portfolio

• The £15,000 prize in Saturday's Times Portfolio Gold weekly competition—double the usual amount as there was no winner the previous week—was shared by two readers. Details, page 3.

• There is £8,000 to be won today in the daily competition as there was no weekend winner of the £4,000 prize.

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Soviet arms chief replaced

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Moscow has privately informed the United States that it is replacing Mr. Viktor Karpov, its chief negotiator at the superpower arms control talks in Geneva. The move is apparently designed to try to break the arms deadlock in the final two years of the Reagan Administration.

According to CBS News, the Kremlin told the State Department last week that it has appointed Mr. Yuri Vorontsov, the First Deputy Foreign Minister, to the post. He is far more senior than Mr. Karpov and is a rising star in the Kremlin. American officials and Western diplomats have long felt that Mr. Karpov lacked authority to negotiate

effectively.

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Recluse who gave away millions dies

Sir David Robinson, aged 81, the recluse who gave more than £25 million to charity, has died at his home in Newmarket, Suffolk.

Knighted for services to charity, he amassed his fortune from the successful Robinsons Rentals company which he helped to found.

Most of the money he gave away, about £17 million, went to build and fund Robinson College at Cambridge.

Obituary, page 14

Superpower status in 1885 cost £31m

By Tim Jones

A hundred years ago when Britain ruled the waves as the mightiest superpower the world had yet seen, its total defence budget was just £31m.

Today, that figure would not even buy two attack Tornados for the RAF, far less a front-line fighting ship for the Navy.

Britain's defence bill for 1985 was £17 billion, a figure beyond the wildest dreams of Mr. Gladstone, Prime Minister a century ago.

The depressing figures are revealed in a page contained in the 1987 edition of the Annual Abstract of Statistics published by the Central Statistical Office.

Britain a century ago was truly a maritime nation, having 26,662 registered ships, compared with 2,378 ships two years ago although gross tonnage then was only seven million tonnes compared to 14 million tonnes today.

The population then was 36 million compared to 56 million two years ago and they were confronted with a na-

Squabbles rife in arms deal

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

An extraordinary picture of confusion and squabbling among arms dealers and middlemen involved in the supply of American arms to Iran has emerged in the secret findings of congressional investigators who have studied intercepted messages and telephone calls.

According to *The Washington Post* yesterday the National Security Agency assembled a six-inch pile of communications intercepted on the orders of Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, the sacked National Security Agency aide, because other top officials were suspicious of the middlemen.

Quoting unnamed sources, the newspaper said the messages did not indicate that the missing money was being diverted to the Nicaraguan Contras, but did vividly demonstrate that the Reagan Administration had evidence that it was involved with some shady and unreliable arms dealers.

The intercepts are said to

Continued on page 16, col 1

Protest as rail fares rise by 5%

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Rail fares went up by an average of 5 per cent yesterday, the lowest rise for four years but above the rate of inflation. Some fares were increased by 10 per cent.

Mr. Mike Patterson, acting secretary of the rail passengers' watchdog body, the Central Transport Consultative Committee, said the above inflation increases were not justified.

"The quality of the service does not justify fare increases in most cases. There have been some improvements here and there, but it is patchy. There are also instances where the quality of service is declining."

A British Rail spokesman said some long distance InterCity season tickets had gone up by 10 per cent, but against that many discount Saver fares remained unaltered and many between the north-west of England and Scotland had been reduced.

London commuters will also have to pay more. Bus and Underground fares went up by an average of 4.5 per cent, also above the level of inflation.

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But Mr Gladstone and his ministers had only £68m in revenue to juggle with compared with the £110b at the disposal of Mrs Thatcher

The old trade figures show that imports of food, drink and tobacco made up a much greater part of the total import bill than they do now.

To complete a depressing picture, in 1885 85p would buy what costs £30.34 in 1985.

Annual Abstract of Statistics, Central Statistical Office, Stationery Office: HMSO £17.50.

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NEWS SUMMARY

Cricketers split over ancient bat

A dispute over an ancient bat has upset one of the world's oldest cricket clubs. Problems began when the bat, more than 200 years old, was valued by Sotheby's at £18,000. That made it too valuable to be displayed in the Vine Club's pavilion at Sevenoaks, Kent, because insurance conditions could not be met.

A group of members proposed the bat should be sold to provide much-needed funds. Other club members began a campaign to keep it, saying it could be displayed safely in the town museum.

The bat, presented to the club in 1932 by a former cricket vice-captain, J.S. Killick, as a gift "in perpetuity", was made by Robert Pett, a renowned batsman of Sevenoaks, and carries the date 1745.

The issue will be decided tomorrow when members will vote on a proposal that the bat be sold at a Sotheby's cricket auction later this year.

New drug profits law

An armory of new laws to stop drug traffickers profiting from their trade is completed today (Our Home Affairs Correspondent writes).

Judges will be empowered to freeze suspects' assets in advance of a trial under tough new provisions of the Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986 now brought into force.

If the suspect is then convicted, courts are required to order confiscation of the assets which are deemed to be the proceeds of dealing in drugs. Reversal of the burden of proof means it is up to the convicted drug dealer to prove the assets are not the proceeds of the crime.

Pets for partners

One in 10 people considers a pet more important to their happiness than their partner, according to a survey published today.

About one in five said pets were more important than children and more than a third of those questioned by *Options* magazine thought pets more important than a job.

Nearly half put pets above money.



Lessons in diving

Princess Anne's son, Peter Phillips, is shown how to use an aqualung before taking a dive at the International Boat Show at Earls Court, west London, yesterday.

Wearing a borrowed pair of yellow trunks, Peter, aged nine, spent almost 10 minutes underwater at the British Sub-Aqua Club stand and refused several offers to get out.

His instructor, Miss Cheryl Collier, aged 25, of Poole, Dorset, said: "Peter is an agile little boy who was easy to teach. He was good enough to take up diving as a hobby."

Horse rustler hunt

A hunt was on last night for a professional gang of rustlers who snatch showjumping steeds.

The gang struck most recently at Westbury, Wiltshire, when it escaped with BJ, a bay mare show champion worth £2,000 last week. Six months ago at Marlborough, an almost identical horse of the same value was stolen.

Mrs Anne Oliver, whose bay mare, Casparyll Lass, was rustled in June 1985, has contacted every horse dealer, auctioneer and relevant publication since the theft. "It is incredible that so many horses, which tend to be bay or grey showjumping mares, can just disappear. I could not believe it when BJ was taken because the horses are almost identical."

Passenger 'saw jet fuel leak'

By Ian Smith
Northern Correspondent

One of the British holidaymakers who refused to return from Tenerife on board a Boeing 757 told yesterday how the pilot admitted he would not allow his own family to fly on the faulty aircraft.

Mrs Doreen Spencer was one of 231 passengers who signed a protest petition after take-off of an Air Europe jet was twice aborted because a passenger claimed he saw fuel gushing from the port engine.

The first incident occurred last Friday evening when a newspaper employee, Mr Paul Bradley, aged 49, saw liquid pouring out of the port engine as the plane taxied for take-off. He alerted cabin crew and passengers spent the night in Tenerife hotels while two engineers were flown from Gatwick to repair the aircraft.

But the next morning as the plane taxied a second time — with the two engineers on board — Mr Bradley saw smoke billowing from the same engine.

When the holidaymakers' replacement aircraft touched down at Ringway International Airport in Manchester yesterday Mrs Spencer, from Horwich, Greater Manchester, said: "I heard the pilot tell a passenger sat next to me that he would not expect his own family to fly on the plane, so why we were expected to take that risk I just do not know."

Mrs Cathy Hall, of Lytham St Anne's, near Blackpool, said she was not frightened of flying, but the weekend incident had scared her to death. "It became so bad that people were standing in the aisles and screaming that they wanted to get off and when we returned to the departure lounge many were still sobbing and clearly shaken by what had occurred," she added.

Leasing boost for Airbus

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

A leading aircraft leasing company is expected to announce an order for more Airbus A320 medium-range passenger jets today in a boost for British Aerospace.

Mr Colin Barrington, chief marketing officer of Guinness Peat Aviation, said the Airbus jets would be leased as part of a trend towards renting by airlines because of the cost of new-generation aircraft.

The cost of a Boeing 747 is about £75 million. "Many airlines wish to retain the flexibility to move to the latest technology when it becomes available and they see the operating lease as a useful tool to achieve this objective," Mr Barrington said.

In 1981, about 6 per cent of commercial passenger jets flown by western airlines were owned by leasing companies. By 1991, it is predicted that 20 per cent of passenger aircraft will be leased.

Two of the biggest leasing organizations, the GPA Group, based in Ireland, and International Lease Finance Corporation, of the United States, own more aircraft than some of the biggest airlines.

Third child for Harman

By Michael Evans
Whitehall Correspondent

Prince Edward is expected formally to hand over his resignation from the Royal Marines to his commanding officer at Lympstone training centre in Devon today after spending most of the weekend with members of the Royal Family at Sandringham.

His decision, taken after long periods of consultation with his senior officers at Lympstone and with his family, will be officially announced in a statement from Buckingham Palace.

Assassination threat made to 'loyalist' leaders
DUP angry at lack of protection

Security surrounding the Rev Ian Paisley has been increased after an alleged threat to his life from the Irish National Liberation Army, which has given a warning of a campaign of assassination against 'loyalists'.

The increase in security came as a body representing Northern Ireland's 26 local councils demanded talks with the RUC's chief constable about security protection for public representatives.

The Unionist-dominated Association of Local Authorities demanded the discussions

with Sir John Hermon, the chief constable, after the attempted assassination last week of Mr David Cairns, a member of Mr Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party, on Craigavon council in Co Armagh.

The association strongly attacked the Northern Ireland Office and said the continued presence of Provisional Sinn Féin members in council chambers endangered the security of councillors.

Leaders of the Democratic Unionist Party have advised their 170 elected repre-

sentatives to review personal protection. Leading unionists remain angry over the RUC's withdrawal of personal protection to various members.

Mr Peter Robinson, the DUP MP for East Belfast, had his police protection withdrawn after he was arrested in the Irish Republic last August during a "loyalist" incursion in Clontarf, Co Monaghan, in August.

He faces 11 charges in connection with the incident when he appears at the Special Criminal Court in Dublin.

The RUC's decision to withdraw security provisions from Mr Robinson caused concern within the Northern Ireland Office but senior officials were adamant that the force could not be used as a

convenience by Unionist politicians.

The dispute over security for politicians occurred as the Provisional IRA claimed responsibility for the first victim of terrorist violence this year.

Mr Ivan Crawford, aged 49, a part-time RUC reserve officer, was killed by a booby trap bomb which exploded in a litter bin in Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh, on Friday night.

The terrorists detonated the device as Mr Crawford, a father of three from Brookborough, Co Fermanagh, walked past the bin.

As Parliament resumes today the most pressing question is whether Labour can recover from the depressing few months it has suffered since the party came to power.

During this period there has been the sharp rise in Conservative support in the opinion polls and, perhaps still more significant, a growing assumption that a third term for Mrs Thatcher is inevitable.

But Labour does appear to have learnt some lessons from the past few months. Before Christmas, Mr Kinnock seemed to be spending all his time trying to justify his non-nuclear defence policy. At its

Bishop's Stortford Cabinet switched its main line of fire to the Government's economic and social policies.

That was sensible. If you must have an unpopular policy, it is a good rule in politics not to try to thrust it down every one's throat.

The change of direction in Labour's assault has been aided by the publication of figures last week showing how the North of the country has suffered so much more than the South from rising unemployment.

The North-South political split

We shall hear a great deal more about this North-South divide from Labour spokesmen over the coming months.

As a description of what has actually been happening economically it is perhaps an oversimplification. But that has never been too much of a liability in politics. The broad North-South economic divide is paralleled by a similar North-South political split.

That represents for Labour both a strength and a problem. The greater the sense of economic deprivation in the North the more easily should Labour be able to consolidate its political heartland.

But it needs to make considerable inroads into Conservative strength in the South and Midlands if it is to have an overall majority in the next House of Commons. The more economically comfortable people are feeling in the South the harder will that be.

It is not an impossible task. But one can see why many of the more perceptive Labour politicians look upon their return to power as an operation that will require two elections.

They will continue to proclaim in public their confidence that they will win outright next time. But they do not really expect to do so.

Better chance for Alliance

They are looking to deny the Conservatives another overall majority, possibly to becoming themselves the largest single party in a hung parliament.

Labour will certainly hope to win seats from the Conservatives in the North and Midlands of England, in Scotland and possibly in Wales. But in most of the South of England the Alliance will stand a better chance than Labour of doing so.

This points to the possibility of a parliamentary deadlock as the most realistic Labour hope next time. In that case, either Labour or the Conservatives might form a coalition or some other lesser arrangement with the Alliance. But a minority government followed by another election quite soon would be more likely.

If that happens, Labour's hopes would be much higher in a second swift election. There have been three elections since the Second World War which have given no party an overall majority of more than single figures: in 1950, 1964 and February 1974. In each case the party whose support was on a rising curve then won the next election soon after.

Labour just held on to power in 1950, but its majority was much reduced and the Conservatives had the momentum to carry them back the following year.

In 1964 Labour managed to end 13 years of Conservative rule by winning a tiny majority that was substantially increased 18 months later. In February 1974 Labour came back without an overall majority which it then secured in October.

In an early second election the voters seem to confirm the trend they have established in the first. This analysis suggests that while the Conservatives have the better chance of winning an overall majority next time, Labour would stand to benefit more in the long run if there was a hung parliament.

But Labour will have to seize the initiative quickly if it is to achieve even that limited objective.

Warship design row goes to court

By Michael Evans
Whitehall Correspondent

A High Court case which involves an alleged breach of copyright over the design of a Royal Navy patrol ship is expected to lead to new questions over the ordering of naval vessels by the Ministry of Defence.

The legal case, which begins today, has been brought against British Shipbuilders by a Guernsey company which claims that plans for its "Osprey" patrol vessel were used to help in the design of the Royal Navy's patrol craft HMS Peacock.

The directors of the company, Osprey Ltd, are Mr David Giles and Mr Peter Thornycroft, who have been engaged in a war of words with the Ministry of Defence for many years over the Navy's choice of the traditional "long, thin" warship as opposed to their "short, fat design".

The company accuses British Shipbuilders of building a model of the Osprey for testing and then using the results in the design of HMS Peacock. British Shipbuilders deny the allegation.

Yesterday the Ministry of Defence said: "This is a matter between British Shipbuilders and Osprey. We are not concerned, although we have provided a number of documents relating to the whole issue which arose some time ago."

The Ministry is not expecting the High Court hearing to provoke any embarrassing revelations about defence procurement. However, the case could shed new light on the Ministry's choice of warship design over the last few years, according to some sources.

The 10-year dispute between the supporters of the short, fat hull and the long, thin design came to a head last year when the Government agreed to set up an independent inquiry to examine the merits of the two different designs. It came after an unofficial report, supporting the short, fat design, by a committee headed by Lord Hill-Norton, a former First Sea Lord, which was sent to the Prime Minister.

The official inquiry which is chaired by Mr Hugh MacLeod, chairman of Lloyd's Register of Shipping, is expected to be completed in a few months.

A repair bill of £5 million has forced the oldest serving warship still afloat to go into mothballs.

Foudroyant, which has been moored in Portsmouth harbour, is a sail training ship in recent years was built in Bombay in 1817, but now the wooden valued frigate is suffering from severe rot.

The Foudroyant Trust, which manages the ship, has annually provided sail training for hundreds of youngsters, but the programme for 1987 has been suspended because of the poor state of the ship and the vast repair bill.

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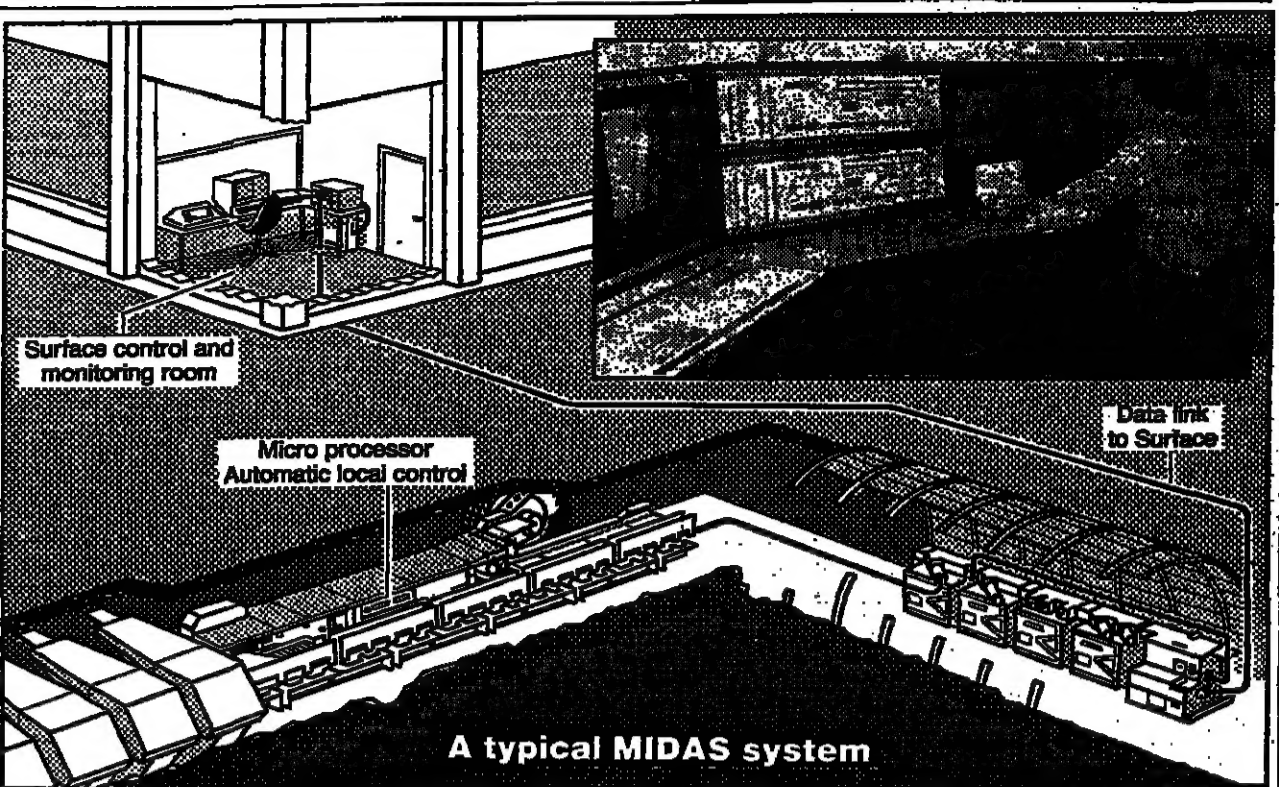
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A typical MIDAS system

Robot machinery and the coal industry

Clean-faced miner still in the future

Union and management at the Seaford colliery in Fife met today to discuss the future of the 820-strong workforce, after last week's fire which caused the loss of one entire pit face.

Equipment worth more than £3.5 million and up to four years of useful coal reserves were lost in the blaze, caused by spontaneous combustion — an age-old hazard facing many mines throughout the country.

Now some experts are complaining that not enough research is being done to develop hi-tech systems which could prevent a repetition of the Seaford blaze.

Professor Meredith Thring, emeritus professor of mechanical engineering at Queen Mary College, London, and a robotics specialist, says that the answer lies in getting men away from the face.

By using remotely-controlled machines to mine coal instead, there is no need to provide fresh air underground. Starved of oxygen, the

chemical reaction that causes spontaneous combustion cannot occur.

Professor Thring said that British Coal should look harder at automating mining using what he calls "telechairs".

Those are machines that are controlled by surface-based operators who receive a complete picture of conditions at the coal face via sophisticated sensors.

Such devices are used in space and the nuclear industry, Professor Thring says. A French telechair was used to find the Air India aircraft destroyed by a bomb over the Atlantic last year.

Professor Thring estimates that telechairs for mining would cost around £250,000 each. He claims the cost of installing them would be rapidly recovered in the increased productivity and saving in ventilation and transportation costs that result.

Professor Thring believes telechairs could double the country's effective coal reserves by their ability to work in mines which are too dangerous for human miners, such as those far undersea. But British Coal is not taking those ideas seriously enough, the Professor says, and a big investment is needed now.

However, Mr Ray Lukaszewicz, group leader in machine automation at British Coal's technical department in Bretby, Staffordshire, said telechairs need a host of control equipment such as 3-D television cameras that are far from being ready to enter the hot, dusty and noisy environment of Britain's mines.

An automated cutting device called Midas began trials at the Wath Colliery, South Yorkshire, a few weeks after the miners' strike. It has now been installed in eight collieries around the country, with an advanced version about to start work in a pit in Fife.

Guided by gamma rays from shale in the overlying rocks, Midas can already cut

coal from seams with little guidance from miners. But, as Mr Lukaszewicz emphasizes, cutting the coal is only a part of the complex process of mining.

Machinery and pit props supporting the roof have to be moved as coal is extracted. Getting the coal away from the face once it is cut is a big task cut too quickly, and the conveyor is overloaded, causing the whole process to grind to a halt.

Mr Lukaszewicz said: "We will be mining in the traditional ways at least until the end of this century. The day of the clean-faced miner is still far off."

A fire which had threatened to destroy a new £5 million coal face at a South Wales pit has been extinguished.

Mine rescue teams working 24-hour shifts took two days to put out the fire 3,000 feet underground in the Penallta colliery in Hengoed, Mid-Glamorgan.

Larsen is equal first after slip

By Harry Golombek
Chess Correspondent

Play at the Foreign and Colonial Chess Tournament remains intense, with only two more rounds to complete. After round 10 the Danish grandmaster Bent Larsen had established a clear 1 point lead.

But in round 11 he sustained a setback at the hands of Jonathan Speelman, the British champion, who gained an advantage after move 13 and increased it following a mistake by Larsen at move 18.

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Union crisis over Times men's fine

By Tim Jones

A decision by the hard left element of the National Union of Journalists' national executive committee to fine 95 journalists employed by News International £1,000 each for allegedly defying instructions in pushing the union towards a crisis.

The decision, taken on Saturday, came after four days of hearings by the union's complaints committee. It was taken by ten votes to nine when some moderate members of the executive were not present.

Last night, Mr Clifford Longley, father (chairman) of The Times NUJ chapel (office branch), and Mr Ian Todd, of The Sun, issued a warning they would pursue the matter to the High Court if necessary.

The decision will compound a feeling of disquiet among some Fleet Street journalists about their union.

The journalists' move last January to the high-technology plant at Wapping, east London, came after 5,140 print union members went on strike and were dismissed after voting for industrial action.

Journalists on The Times, The Sunday Times, The Sun and News of the World were not in dispute with the company and voted to move to the new plant.

It is understood that when it met on Saturday, the union's executive had before it a recommendation from the complaints committee to acquit News International journalists of the central charge of moving to Wapping contrary to a union instruction of January 21 "to work normally at the normal place of work". Mr Longley described that as a moral victory.

But on a second charge of crossing picket lines at Wapping, 95 were found guilty.

The national executive of the NUJ essentially found guilty those Wapping journalists whose names appear on reports. Three hundred and twenty others were acquitted because the evidence against them was not satisfactory.

Mr Longley said: "These proceedings were unlawful from the start, for the NUJ has ignored the strike ballot provisions of the 1984 Trade Union Act and has broken its agreement."

"These proceedings were unjust as the NEC acted as judge, jury and prosecutor in its own case. The outcome is also extremely stupid as the NEC knows none of the members concerned will pay the fine."

It was also clear yesterday that Prince Edward's personal doubts had provoked universal sympathy at Lympstone.

Yesterday a spokesman at Buckingham Palace denied a report that before The Sun newspaper broke the story, it had originally been planned to announce last Wednesday that Prince Edward was to resign because of an old leg injury.

The Prince hurt his leg while playing rugby at Cambridge University.

Union to recruit by video

By Our Media Correspondent

Britain's largest union is taking a cue from the music industry by producing a short video film, to the beat of rock and roll, to promote itself.

The Transport and General Workers Union, which has

Law Society fights 'draconian' powers in anti-fraud Bill

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The proposed new powers of the director of the Serious Fraud Office are attacked by the Law Society as "draconian" and "alarming" in a briefing paper to MPs today. The society says the powers, set out in clause two of the Criminal Justice Bill which is before a Commons committee tomorrow, go far beyond the recommendations of the Roskill committee on fraud trials. The society said: "The Government appears to have disregarded the need for a

balance between the investigation of serious crime and individual liberty.

"Clause two as drafted tips the scales heavily in favour of untrammelled investigative powers."

The society is particularly concerned about the far-reaching investigative powers, the abrogation of the suspect's right to silence and the right not to incriminate himself.

It is also concerned that legal privilege which was protected under the Police and

Criminal Evidence Act 1984 is to be without safeguards. In respect of the investigative powers, the Bill breaks new ground in "confering such a wide battery of powers and in allowing such a broad discretion as to the circumstances in which they are exercised."

The society puts forward a series of amendments aimed at restricting the director's powers and restoring suspects' rights.

Although similar far-reaching powers are held by the Department of Trade, the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise, these apply to narrower and more clearly defined circumstances, it says.

Its amendments would limit the exercise of investigative powers to cases of serious or complex fraud. At present under the Bill they may be brought to bear in any case for which it appears there is good reason to do so.

The society is also angry that the investigative powers make "substantial inroads" into legal privilege and that there is an obligation on a lawyer to disclose the name of a client if required to do so.

It attacks the Government for not consulting the profession on this, and not mentioning it in its criminal justice White Paper or during lengthy discussions.

The Bill also abrogates the right of silence in that it requires people to answer questions, and produce documents or be at risk of committing a criminal offence.

defendant should be required to make the challenge and not his counsel.

The association gives "qualified support" to the proposals to allow witnesses abroad and children to give evidence before a court by video recording link. But it says there should be a controlled experiment with child witnesses before it becomes law.

It also criticizes the Government for not using the opportunity of the Bill for reviewing constitutional principles which now fail to filter out of the system cases which are defective or oppressive.

The time has come to take a new look at constitutional proceedings, the association says. It calls for their complete abolition.

Bar opposes removing right to challenge jury

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government's proposal to abolish the defence right to challenge jurors in the Criminal Justice Bill is criticized in a briefing paper to MPs from the Criminal Bar Association today.

The association says: "We remain implacably opposed to the abolition, which may be in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights."

The association said the right to challenge was a constitutional right which should not be lightly removed. An alternative to outright abolition would be a limit of six on the number of jurors who could be challenged off, or more at the judge's discretion.

Another option put forward by the association is that the

Contest to cut heavy drinking

Drinkers will be asked to enter a competition to end alcohol abuse in the north-west of England, where more beer and spirits are consumed than anywhere else in Britain.

The Health Education Council and the North Western Regional Health Authority will launch a three-year project today in which contestants will be asked to provide new ideas on the best way to promote sensible drinking habits.

More than 200,000 leaflets and questionnaires will be sent to homes, universities, public houses, factories, sports centres and doctors and dentists waiting rooms throughout the region. Entrants will be asked to complete a questionnaire to determine if they are cautious drinkers who do not exceed prescribed safe alcohol limits.

If they pass the initial test they are classed as sensible drinkers and asked to complete a form advising health officials on how best to persuade heavy drinkers to adopt a more sensible approach.

A list of contestants' hints will be included in follow-up literature, together with their best sensible drinking slogans. Eight winners will receive British Caledonian flights to Paris or the US.

If successful, the campaign may be adopted throughout Britain. It is supported by the Greater Manchester and Lancashire Council on Alcohol and other voluntary agencies.

Dr Laura Pendleton, who is co-ordinating the scheme for the authority's community medicine department, said: "We believe the public will more readily accept advice presented to them in ordinary language from lay members of the public than the experts' messages which too often are couched in formal and difficult to understand terms."

BT faces call for more cardphones

British Telecom should speed up the replacement of coin-operated telephones by cardphones, according to the Telecommunications Users Association.

The association said a recent survey found that cardphones suffered far less vandalism, mainly because they do not contain money. They offered a less frustrating service and Telecom would save on the cost of collecting cash and repairing damaged boxes.

Telecom estimates that it lost £36 million last year because of vandalism. Up to 60 per cent of public telephone boxes are out of action in some inner city areas, the worst of which is Liverpool.

Mrs Vivienne Peters, association director of membership services, said that the move to cardphones must be combined with better availability of telephone cards. A 50p card should be introduced for the young and the elderly.

The TUA and Telecom are to meet shortly to discuss the proposals. About 5,500 cardphones have been introduced in Britain since 1982, and now account for about 7 per cent of all payphones. Telecom plans to triple the number over the next two years.

Mr Roger Gilbert, head of Telecom's national payphone services, said that more rapid expansion was hampered by the need for more telephone card outlets. A big awareness campaign was needed to make the public use the cards in the right way. "That's our major task at the moment, and we have a big advertising budget to help."

He said that a 50p card would be uneconomic to produce, and would have little effect on the popularity of cardphones. Marketing and advances in technology were more likely to be effective.

Mr Gilbert added that there were no plans to completely convert Britain's 77,000 coin-operated boxes to cardphones.

Ford regains lead in battle for fleet sales

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

The Vauxhall Cavalier has lost its position as the sales representative's favourite company car after relieving the Ford Cortina of that mantle in 1982. In the battle for supremacy, the Vauxhall has given way to the Ford Sierra.

In last year's fleet car market, accounting for one in four of all new cars sold, the Cavalier suffered a 20 per cent decline in its share to 14.5 per cent, letting the Sierra into the lead with 21.178 fleet sales and a 15.1 per cent share. After a decidedly cool initial reception, the Sierra has now established itself.

In the market for fleets of more than 25 cars, Ford holds sway with 47.7 per cent of all sales and Vauxhall follows with a 27.2 per cent share, down 4 per cent.

Despite many pushes to claw fleet sales from the two multinational car makers, Austin Rover still has only 14.4 per cent of the important fleet market, its whole model range being beaten by the Sierra alone.

Along with the Sierra and Cavalier, the Ford Escort captured more than 10 per cent of fleet sales. The new Rover 800 has yet to establish itself among the larger company fleets in contrast to the Ford Granada.

Major roadworks until Monday, January 19: London and South-east

M11 London: New road layout and reconstruction work continues at Redbridge roundabout.

M2 Kent: Contraflow between junctions 5 and 6 (Sittingbourne/Faversham).

M1 South Yorkshire: Repair work between junctions 31 and 33 (A57 Worksop and A630 Rotherham). Slip road closures at junctions 31 and 32.

Other roadworks, page 16



Mr Simon Daly and his six-dog team negotiating a turn in a husky race in Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire, yesterday. A contestant dressed as Robin Hood was not so successful. Mr Chris Charles, aged 34, of Epping, Essex, retired after hitting an oak tree. "The ghost of that nasty Sheriff of Nottingham must be behind this," he said (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

National gets new director

By Gavin Bell, Arts Correspondent

The National Theatre is expected to announce today the appointment of Mr Richard Eyre as its artistic director in succession to Sir Peter Hall, whose contract expires at the end of next year.

Mr Eyre, an associate director at the national since 1981, was recommended for the top post by Sir Peter. This is likely to be formally approved by a board meeting under Lord Kaye, the chairman.

He will share overall management of the complex on London's South Bank with Mr David Aukin, who was appointed to the new post of executive director last September.

Unlike Mr Eyre, whose 20-year career has spanned the theatre, cinema and television, Mr Aukin does not direct plays. His forte is as an administrator and producer, and the theory is that the two will complement each other admirably as the national's first joint directors.

The two men recently worked together on a stage version of *High Society* at the Leicester Haymarket, and their co-operation as director and producer is said to have been harmonious.

Mr Eyre, aged 43, directed his first production, *The Knack*, at the Phoenix, Leicester, in 1965. He later spent two years as producer-director of Play for Today at the BBC, and directed the widely-acclaimed film *The Ploughman's Lunch*.

Sir Peter has not disclosed his future plans, although he is known to be considering several offers from Europe and the United States. I understand he has also been invited by two British commercial theatre impresarios to leave the subsidised sector and form a company to present plays in London and New York.

Mr Aukin's appointment as executive director, which was recommended by an independent inquiry, coincided with criticism of Sir Peter's role as supreme of the national.

The new line-up at the theatre will be bound by constraints expected to be introduced by the Arts Council on the amount of time they may work outside the institution.

The council has accepted a further recommendation that the national and the Royal Shakespeare Company should receive at least half of the earnings from any future transfer of their productions to the commercial sector.

Senior police officers will meet today to examine claims that the hoax tape which disrupted the Yorkshire Ripper inquiry may have been sent anonymously by a disgruntled policeman working on the case.

The Chief Constable of the West Yorkshire force, Mr Colin Sampson, said yesterday that he had been concerned about the identity of the hoaxer since conducting a review of the case.

He will meet with senior officers, some of them involved in the original investigation, to discuss allegations made in a Sunday newspaper that the taunting tape was sent to the late Det Chief Supt. George Oldfield, the man heading the protracted hunt for the killer, by a disaffected junior officer.

The Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, was yesterday asked to launch an official investigation into the suggestions, Mr Don Dixon, Labour MP for Jarrow, in Tyne and Wear, said he was deeply disturbed by claims that the hoaxes were perpetrated by a detective in the West Yorkshire force.

A nationwide hunt was launched to track down the author of the two letters and the tape which taunted police about their inability to catch the Yorkshire Ripper who, for more than five years, stalked the North, killing 13 women and savagely assaulting at least seven more.

Mr Dixon said hundreds of men in his constituency had come under intensive questioning after language experts pinned down the accent as belonging to a man living in the Sunderland area.

Aids battle Extra £12m to help victims

By Jill Sherman

The Government is likely to announce that an extra £12 million is to be spent on the treatment and counselling of Aids patients.

The money, which will be allocated to regional health authorities in the next two weeks, will go towards providing special hospital wards for Aids sufferers, increased staffing levels, day centres, clinics and counselling for the thousands of people now known to be carrying the Aids virus.

Most of the money will be directed at hospitals in north and west London which have cared for 407 of the 610 cases of Aids in Britain. But it is likely that regions in other areas of the country will for the first time get some additional money earmarked for Aids.

Yesterday a Department of Health spokesman denied reports that the Government would allocate between £20 million and £30 million on caring for Aids sufferers.

Health service managers were originally told that only £7 million was to be allocated for clinical care. But it is now understood that this figure has been increased to at least £12 million as health authorities face spiralling costs.

In total only 4,758 people carrying the Aids virus have been reported throughout Britain, but most specialists agree that between 30,000 and 100,000 people must now be infected with the virus.

Aids counsellors in London have given a warning that more resources must be spent on counselling to avoid more suicides. The Middlesex Hospital in London has had a fourfold increase in people demanding tests as a result of the publicity on Aids.

A community physician has proposed distributing condoms to some school children to prevent Aids spreading through early experimental sexual acts. Dr David Joseph, director of community medicine at South Bedfordshire health authority, will put the scheme to Bedfordshire local education authority today.

Classical musicians are to make way for a rock band for the first time at the Barbican Centre in London later this month, for a charity concert on behalf of Aids sufferers.

The Communards will be joined by the rock duo, Erasure, and other guests for the concert on January 26. Actors Derek Jacobi and Isla Blair will stage a benefit performance in the Barbican Theatre on February 22.

Clifford Longley, page 14

High Court to decide on pump station blast

By a Staff Reporter

Legal liability for the pumping station explosion at Abbeycay, Lancashire, in which 16 people died and 28 were injured, will be decided in the High Court starting in Lancaster tomorrow.

A methane gas explosion tore apart the underground valve house of the £68 million Wyre Valley water distribution plant on May 23, 1984, during a visit by 42 local residents organized by the parish council to ally fears about local flooding.

A consortium of 20 survivors and relatives of the dead have issued writs on behalf of 31 plaintiffs against the North West Water Authority, Binnie and Partners, who designed the valve house, and Nuttall and Co. the builders.

It has cost £365,000 to bring the case to court, most of it raised through personal contributions, legal aid and loans of £240,000 from Wyre Borough Council and Lancashire County Council.

The hearing, before Mr Justice Rose, is expected to last three months.

Mrs Elaine Kellert-Bowman, Conservative MP for Lancaster, said it would normally take up to eight years for a case of such complexity to reach court. The hearing was taking place within three years because government ministers and legal officers had worked determinedly towards an early settlement.

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Mr Dixon said hundreds of men in his constituency had come under intensive questioning after language experts pinned down the accent as belonging to a man living in the Sunderland area.

Portfolio Gold Churchill interpreter shares win

A retired journalist, who was an interpreter for Churchill at the historic Yalta conference, is one of two readers who share the weekly Portfolio Gold prize of £16,000.

Mr Hugh Loughi, aged 65, of Fleet, Hampshire, said he interpreted for the wartime leader at the Yalta, Potsdam and Tehran conferences. He is still a writer and broadcaster, after retiring from the BBC's External Services division.

Mr Loughi, who has been a reader of *The Times* for more than 25 years, said he planned to spend part of his £8,000 prize on a trip to India with his wife.

"My first thought was that my wife has always wanted to visit the Indian sub-continent, and that is where she will be going - accompanied by me, of course," he said yesterday.

Mr Loughi, who is using his experiences to write a post-war history, said any remaining money would be used to help his three children and a charity of his choice.

He has played Portfolio Gold since the game started and said he was very surprised to find he had won.

Mr Walter Longman, of Writhe Green, Surrey, is the reader who shares the weekly prize, also winning £8,000.

The weekly total had reached £16,000 as there had been no winner for the past two weeks.

There were no claimants for Saturday's daily prize of £4,000.

Portfolio Gold cards can be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold, The Times, PO Box 40, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.



Mr Loughi plans a journey to India

Beatle seeks photographs

Paul McCartney and his wife, Linda, have lodged a High Court writ seeking the return of 70 photographs which they allege were stolen from them.

The writ has been issued against Miss Caroline Dimmock of Enfield, north London, whose late father was a collector of Beatles memorabilia.

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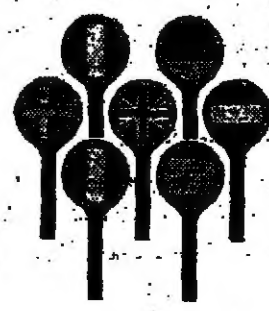
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Safeguards sought in family blood link tests on immigrants

By a Staff Reporter

Government plans to test the use of genetic fingerprinting to settle immigration disputes must include safeguards for those unwilling to give blood samples, a report published today says.

The United Kingdom Immigration Advisory Service (UKIAS) gives a cautious welcome to the proposed pilot scheme in its annual report, but adds: "It is crucial that proper safeguards are built into the system and that tests are offered in an acceptable manner."

"It must be understood by all concerned with the tests that there are a variety of perfectly valid reasons why some people might not want to have them."

The DNA blood tests, genetic fingerprinting, would be used to establish the validity of claims from wives and

children applying to join husbands or fathers resident in the UK.

Plans for a pilot scheme were first announced by the Foreign Office in January last year.

Exclusive worldwide licence to develop and commercialize the technique is held by Imperial Chemical Industries, which is understood to have agreed its limited use in the government pilot scheme, involving about 40 volunteers.

However, negotiations are continuing over any further use if the Government decides to widen the scheme.

The UKIAS says the technique would be particularly useful to immigrants who have had their applications to settle in Britain refused, as it could establish their rights beyond question.

Most applications from wives and children come from Bangladesh and Pakistan. Under the pilot scheme, for which no date has been fixed, blood samples would be taken in their home country and compared with samples taken from the man in Britain.

The UKIAS says: "The introduction of DNA testing would, in most cases, render village visits obsolete overnight, as well as the zealous search for 'discrepancies' by entry clearance officers."

The organization, set up to help people appealing against immigration laws, also reports that more than half its appeals were successful in the year ending March 1986.

UKIAS Annual Report, 1985-86 (UKIAS, PO Box 132, Seventh Floor, Bretenham House, Savoy Street, Strand, London WC2E 7LR, £2).

Julie beats handicap and revels in sport

Few girls of 13 can number parascending, water-skiing and ice-skating among their pastimes. For Miss Julie Hunt, her ability to take part in such sports is especially remarkable.

She has just celebrated an important anniversary. It is now two years since she completed a course of treatment for bone cancer which involved a widely-publicized and unusual operation to remove her thigh and replace it with her lower leg.

Rotationplasty, as this rarely-performed surgery is known, has given her the freedom to walk, run and play sport with her school friends secure in the knowledge that she will not face the pain of the further operations.

The man who diagnosed the malignant tumour on Julie's femur two years ago, Mr Roger Checketts, a consultant orthopaedic surgeon, had two courses open to him. Either to remove the femur and replace it with a metal bar or to ask the pioneer of rotationplasty, Mr Jan van der Eiken, a surgeon from The Netherlands, to fly to Sunderland to assess the situation.

Mr Checketts, who heads a team of four surgeons at Sunderland General Hospital, said: "The disadvantages of the traditional operation were that as the patient grows, so the metal bar has to be replaced which entails further operations."

Julie, who lives in Castleford Road on the Hylton Castle estate, Sunderland, seems quite at ease with her. However, Mr Checketts said: "There is still a good deal



Julie Hunt, a victim of bone cancer, skating again after a pioneering operation that gave her full mobility.

of prejudice against rotationplasty in the orthopaedic world."

Mr Checketts said: "We want to increase the awareness in orthopaedic circles of what this once-only operation can

offer and to overcome the prejudice."

Julie said: "I don't think of myself as a freak because it is so easy for me to put my new leg on and I think of my foot as my knee."

Hypothermia deaths: 1

Cold snap benefit system criticized

Today, after a week of plummeting temperatures, Age Concern launches an appeal to raise money to help old people to keep warm this winter. In the first of two articles, Jill Sherman looks at whether state benefits to help with heating are reaching all those in need.

Ambulance services appealed to people yesterday to check on elderly neighbours after a spate of deaths this weekend caused by the freezing weather.

Services throughout the country are responding to a series of calls to help pensioners who have collapsed - but, in some cases, the ambulancemen have arrived too late.

Figures from the Family Policy Studies Centre show that an estimated 50,000 people died from cold related conditions such as pneumonia and bronchitis last year. There were 578 hypothermia-related deaths in the first quarter of 1986, and over 6,000 more deaths during the five very cold weeks of February and early March than expected at that time of year.

As temperatures fell below freezing at the weekend, voluntary organizations gave a warning that the Government's new system of exceptionally severe weather (ESW) payments would provide little relief to those shivering at home.

The new scheme replaces last year's much criticized system whereby claimants had to prove they spent extra money on heating by producing bills from the previous year and payments were given at the discretion of local authorities. But last year in spite of a bitterly cold Feb-

ruary, the coldest since 1947, less than half the Department of Health and Social Security offices declared exceptionally severe weather until three weeks into the cold spell.

This winter the Government has decided to set a national trigger point of -1.5 degrees Celsius. If temperatures average at this figure or below for a seven-day period from Monday to Sunday, weekly payments of £5 will be made to supplementary benefit claimants who are over 65, are chronically sick or disabled or who have children under two.

Claimants with savings of more than £500, however, will not qualify, and the Government had admitted that it only expects the figures to be triggered every five years.

Using figures from the Meteorological Office Age Concern has shown that last year exceptionally severe weather payments would have been declared in only two thirds of the country if this system had been used. Large areas of Wales, the south-west and north-east of England did not go below -1.5 degrees Celsius, and cities such as London, Manchester, Edinburgh, Cardiff, Liverpool, Leeds and Dundee would not have qualified for help.

● Tomorrow: Heating additions and single payments

Plea over loss of remand privileges

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Prison Reform Trust is to protest to Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, against the removal of privileges from remand prisoners.

They have been treated differently because they are considered innocent until proven guilty, but the trust will write to Mr Hurd complaining that their prison status is being drastically changed.

Unconvicted prisoners used to be entitled to a daily 15-minute visit from family and friends. That right has been removed, the trust says.

They were also able to have food and drink sent in, but the trust will point out to Mr Hurd the rules have been changed to make that more difficult. Dr Stephen Shaw, director, says the whole privilege is under review.

Worse still, the right to a weekly appearance in court, a safeguard which jurists of all parties have considered essential, is to be removed to save money spent on prison officers' escort duties.

So that prisoners will know what their rights are, the trust

has produced an information pack giving details of the rights of inmates on remand and those serving sentences. The leaflets, which range from prison discipline to health and welfare, are free to prisoners.

"The attack on remand prisoners' rights is a direct consequence of the failure of the Home Office to control the numbers of prisoners remanded by the courts and the time that is spent waiting for trial," the trust says.

Dr Shaw said the Home Office had found itself unable to cope with the number of prisoners on remand. It had decided to remove the privileges for economic and administrative reasons.

He said the way the prison system was organized concentrated overcrowding in local jails where remand prisoners suffer from long periods in their cells, lack of opportunity to work, and where physical conditions were degrading.

Prisoners' Information Pack (Prison Reform Trust, 59 Caledonia Road, London N1 9BU, £2.95).

Scientists' pay may be doubled

More than 200 British scientists working on a joint European nuclear energy project will learn this week whether they have won the right to the same pay as their European colleagues working on the same site.

The scientists, based at the Joint European Torus (JET) site at Culham, Oxfordshire, could have their salaries doubled, and the increase backdated to 1983, after the judgement from the European Court of Appeal in Luxembourg, expected this Thursday.

They may also be entitled to damages from the date of the original claim. The scientists brought their case against the European Commission, which was responsible for drawing up JET's founding charter.

Under this, the British scientists are employed by the UK Atomic Energy Authority for an average of £14,000 a year, while their colleagues work under the Euratom organization, typically, for twice that figure.

Precursors study offers clue to quake forecast

By Keith Hindley

Series earthquakes in the Kaoliki region of Hawaii occur at such regular intervals, a researcher says, that they offer geologists a golden opportunity to study the precursors to each tremor and develop potential methods for predicting earthquakes.

A study of tremors by Dr Max Wyss, of the Co-operative Institute for Research in the Environmental Sciences at the University of Colorado in Boulder, of tremors re-

corded by seismic stations around the world disclosed five Kaoliki events during the period 1941 to 1983, originating below an area less than four miles across.

They ranged in magnitude from 4.5 to 6.1 and occurred at ten and a half year intervals, with a scatter of just eight months each way, an unusually regular sequence.

If the main tremor was on the small side (magnitude 5), then it was the main earthquake of a small series while larger (magnitude 6) shocks

were usually isolated events.

Thus the overall energy released during each sequence was about the same and that suggests that the tremors represent the release of the same strain accumulated by the same volume of rocks in each case.

The source of the strain in that case is molten rock or magma rising in two of the Hawaiian volcano peaks and stressing the rocks trapped between them.

The volume of the rocks being squeezed remains con-

stant while the movement of magma occurs at a steady rate. These explain the regularity of the Kaoliki tremors.

Earthquakes occur at only ten and a half year intervals, allowing study of precursor signals and testing of any models and theories twice as often as for the Parkfield region of the San Andreas fault in California.

At Parkfield, which has earthquakes of similar magnitude to Kaoliki, the recurrence time is 22 years but with a scatter of 37 months.

Finally, the type of faulting at Kaoliki provides earthquakes which are similar in many respects to significant events involving intraplate rupture. Thus theories developed at Kaoliki could have applications elsewhere.

Dr Wyss has studied the most recent, 1983, event in the Kaoliki sequence in detail.

He found clear signs of precursor events about two and a half years before the main shock.

Source: Science, vol 234, page 726, 1986.

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TV/06

WORLD SUMMARY

Kohl steps up his attacks on East

Bonn — Chancellor Kohl of West Germany, campaigning for the federal election in less than two weeks' time, was cheered by a crowd of 5,000 in Kiel when he described the East German Government as an "absurd and wretched regime that robs the people of the fruits of their labour".

Herr Johannes Rann, the Social Democratic Party (SPD) candidate, addressing a rally in Regensburg, renewed his charge that Herr Kohl's attacks on East Germany were a "calculated irritation of foreign politicians" to try to win votes. In Munich, Herr Franz Josef Strauss, leader of the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU), made a new, sharp attack upon the liberal Free Democratic Party (FDP), the junior partner in the government coalition, which has called on West Germans to give it "stop Strauss" votes. Herr Strauss accused the FDP of "dumb ignorance" if it believed it could prevent him becoming a Cabinet minister. "The FDP cannot decide who will be a minister," he said.

The latest opinion poll gives the CDU-CSU 48.5 per cent of the vote, an increase of 1 per cent, against 34.5 per cent for the SPD and 7 per cent each for the FDP and the Greens. *Bernard Levin, page 12*

Libyans 'routed'

Ndjamena (AFP) — Chad said more skirmishes had taken place yesterday between government troops and Libyan forces in the town of Yebbi-Bou, east of the oasis of Bardai in the northern Tibesti region.

An armed forces communiqué said the fighting lasted about four hours and left several Libyans dead or wounded. It said the battle stopped after Libyan soldiers fled the battlefield and claimed two Libyan T-55 tanks and a troop carrier were destroyed in the fighting, on the main track out of Bardai.

Nuclear mission

Moscow (Reuters) — Soviet doctors helping victims of the Chernobyl nuclear accident flew to Japan yesterday to look at methods to treat those affected by the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombs, Tass reported.

It said doctors in Hiroshima had invited them to study methods developed to treat victims of the bombings. Japan was among the first countries to offer help after the Chernobyl accident, Tass added. Doctors say thousands face a greater risk of cancer as a result of the accident.

Israel ban on US visit

Tel Aviv (Reuters) — Israel has barred a former West Bank mayor and a lawyer from Israeli-occupied Gaza from going to California to attend a symposium, the Defence Ministry said.

A spokesman said the two Palestinians, Mr Mustafa Natshe, the deposed Mayor of Hebron, and Mr Faez Abu-Rahme, had not been given travel permits because of suspicions they would meet what he described as hostile elements abroad.

At least three other prominent Palestinians from occupied territories, including Mr Hanna Shulior, editor of *al-Fajr*, were allowed to go to San Diego for the symposium on the Middle East later this month, the spokesman said.

Frelimo switch

Maputo (Reuters) — In a surprise move, Mozambique's ruling Frelimo party has appointed the Health Minister, Mr Pascoal Mocumbi, as its senior specialist in foreign affairs. Political sources here said the appointment indicated that Mr Mocumbi may later take over Mozambique's Foreign Ministry from President Chissano, who retained his Foreign Ministry post when he became President last November.

Cripples in protest

Tel Aviv (AP) — Hundreds of cripples in wheelchairs and on crutches have paraded down a Tel Aviv street to protest at a government proposal to tax their benefits.

The demonstration was directed against government plans to impose taxes on the handicapped as part of a tax reform proposal to reduce the steep levies on high-income earners. "Look at who they want to take money from," read a poster.

Breast cancer link

Oslo — Women with a family history of breast cancer are three-and-a-half times more likely to contract it than those with none, according to studies of Norwegian sufferers under the age of 40 (Tony Samstag writes).

Doctors at Oslo's Radium Hospital interviewed more than 100 breast cancer patients between May 1984 and April 1985 and found that the mothers or sisters of 10 per cent of them turned out to have suffered from the disease.

The family history was most significant in the cases of women under the age of 40 as increasing age was likely to strengthen the influence of more generalized risk factors, the doctors said. They emphasized, however, that the statistical chance of developing breast cancer at such an early age, whatever the family history, was still remote.

Jaruzelski's journey to Rome

Hint of Pope-Gorbachov summit

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The Polish leader, General Wojciech Jaruzelski, travels to Rome today on his most important mission to the West since his military crackdown five years ago.

He is in pursuit of two prizes — an audience with the Pope, who is due to make a pilgrimage to his homeland in June, and a big credit line from the Italians which will signal Warsaw's political and financial rehabilitation.

The Pope has already declared himself willing to meet General Jaruzelski, and there will be some serious talking on church-state relations in Poland. But behind these talks there lurks the idea that a successful third pilgrimage to Poland could lead to a remarkable summit between the Pope and Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader.

Aides to General Jaruzelski deny rumours that he is bringing a message from Mr Gorbachov to the Pope, but there have certainly been Polish-Soviet consultations and the Poles themselves are the strongest supporters within the Soviet bloc of such a meeting. The Pope wants very much to travel to Lithuania, which has close historical links to Poland and is strongly Roman Catholic.

Mr Gorbachov, it is said, would like to see the Pope in Moscow, perhaps next year. Somewhere between these two positions there may be enough common ground for a Catholic-Marxist summit. The Polish authorities have gone some way towards pleasing the Vatican. They have agreed with remarkable speed to the Pope visiting Gdansk, birthplace of Solidarity. That will almost certainly mean another politically controver-



The Pope yesterday wishes to visit Lithuania.

Polish authorities have repeatedly asserted their readiness to establish full diplomatic relations with the Vatican, but the church leadership in Poland is still suspicious of such moves. The church, for its part, wants the passage of a law that would anchor its rights in Poland: that would be a sufficient breakthrough in a communist state for the Pope's visit to be considered a success. Movement on either of these issues could bring closer a Pope-Gorbachov meeting.

The Polish authorities have gone some way towards pleasing the Vatican. They have agreed with remarkable speed to the Pope visiting Gdansk, birthplace of Solidarity. That will almost certainly mean another politically controver-



Mr George Shultz, the United States Secretary of State, joining in a traditional Masai dance at Keekorok Lodge, in Kenya's Masai Mara game reserve at the weekend. He also had a lengthy meeting with President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya, who voiced "very strong views" on the situation in South Africa (A Correspondent writes from Nairobi). Mr Shultz said during his weekend visit to Nairobi that he had told President Moi that the US

still believed in keeping a line open to moderate elements in South Africa. He said Washington supported a three-point proposal to bring peaceful change to South Africa under which the Pretoria regime would lift its ban

on all outlawed political parties, release Mr Nelson Mandela, the jailed leader of the African National Congress, and open negotiations with "relevant" South African political groups.

Advantage in battles swings to Tehran

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Iranian forces yesterday appeared to be holding on to a swathe of Iraqi territory amid heavy fighting on the third day of Tehran's offensive on the southern front.

Amid what Baghdad called "epic battles," Iran also launched missile attacks on Iraq's two biggest cities. A missile said by Tehran to have been aimed at the Iraqi Air Force headquarters hit a heavily populated part of Baghdad. Three medium-range Eagle missiles were launched against Iraq's southern port of Basra, which has a population of one million.

Iraqi officials said the three rockets and artillery fire had killed 36 and injured 164 others in the past two days. Iraq responded with air and missile attacks. Tehran radio reported that five Iraqi missiles hit the western towns of Dezful, Ramhormoz and Nahavand.

Two days ago Nahavand was reported to have suffered a missile strike which killed 66 pupils and their teacher in a school for retarded children. Iraqi planes also bombed the Iranian holy city of Qom and parts of Borujird.

But diplomatic attention focused on the land battles in an area known as Fish Lake, six miles from Basra. Despite unverifiable claims of casualties totalling 60,000 on the two sides in three days, Western sources doubted that Tehran's long-expected big offensive had yet begun.

Tehran, which launched its assault on Friday, claimed further gains. It said that Iranian troops attacked at four points north-west of Shalamin, on the Shatt al-Arab waterway.

The Iran arms scandal

Secret evidence suggests Peres originated Contra cash scheme

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The Senate select committee on intelligence has been given secret evidence strongly suggesting that the plan to divert money from the Iran arms operation to the Nicaraguan Contras was first put forward by Mr Shimon Peres, then the Israeli Prime Minister.

The idea was proposed to the United States last January by Mr Amir Amir, then newly appointed special assistant to Mr Peres for counter-terrorism, according to accounts emerging here at the weekend. At the time Mr Nir met Vice Admiral John Poindexter, who was then National Security Adviser, and Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, one of his deputies, in Washington.

One of the main questions left unanswered is how the idea of diverting money to the Contras arose. Senior Israeli officials, including Mr Peres who is now the Foreign Minister, have insisted that they acted only at the behest of the US.

On Friday in Rome, Mr Peres said Israel supplied the US-made arms to Tehran as "symbolic and strategic gesture", and there was no pressure from Washington.

The Senate select committee report has been widely leaked by White House and congressional officials since the committee voted 7-6 last week not to publish it. The leaked version is still in draft and a final version is being prepared for possible release next month.

President Reagan was furious that the report was not released. Its findings indicate strongly that he was not involved in the diversion of funds to the Contras.

On Friday, the White House published two key documents that it believes support Mr Reagan's claim that he approved arms shipments to Iran out of broad-based considerations beyond the release of American hostages in Lebanon. He has consistently denied the shipments were a direct "arms for hostages" deal.

The documents included a memorandum prepared for Mr Reagan last January by Colonel North, the sacked National Security aide, and an intelligence "finding" dated January 17 1986 and signed by Mr Reagan, which authorized the shipment of arms to Iran and ordered that the CIA not inform Congress of the covert operation.

Although the documents had been classified secret, White House officials said they had been declassified so they could be included in the committee report. The North memorandum, which was presented in the name of Mr John Poindexter, the former National Security Adviser, was never seen by Mr Reagan but was delivered to him orally by Mr Poindexter, according to White House officials.

Mr Poindexter had said: "The Israeli plan (for sending arms to Iran) is premised on the assumption that moderate elements in Iran can come to power if these factions demonstrate their credibility in

defending Iran against Iraq and in deterring Soviet intervention."

According to the memorandum, Mr Reagan authorized the arms shipments after Mr Peres presented his plan, under which Israel "with limited assistance from the US can create conditions to help bring about a more moderate government in Iran". But another section of the document in fact suggests strongly that there was a direct arms-for-hostages motive behind the US action. "If all of the hostages are not released after the first shipment of 1,000 (Tow anti-tank) weapons, further transfers would cease."

In the intelligence "finding," Mr Reagan says the US will "act to facilitate efforts by third parties and third countries to establish contact with moderate elements within and outside the Government of Iran by providing these elements with arms, equipment and related material, in order to enhance the credibility of these ele-

ments in their effort to achieve a more pro-US government."

In another development on Saturday, *The New York Times* reported that congressional investigators had found evidence that Colonel North co-ordinated many arms shipments to the Contra rebels through Portugal. If true, this would contradict White House denials that Administration officials had defied a congressional ban on direct or indirect aid to the rebels.

The newspaper also reported that two US Army colonels were implicated in efforts to sell arms to Iran for private gain while on active duty. One was based at the American Embassy in London and the other in Paris. Both have since retired and neither was prosecuted.

Meanwhile, the unpublished committee report has confirmed that on a secret mission to Iran last May Mr Robert McFarlane, the former National Security Adviser, and his party carried a bible with a hand-written verse from Mr Reagan for Iranian leaders. They supposedly travelled on 10 falsified passports, believed to be Irish, and carried a key-shaped cake to symbolize the anticipated "opening" to Iran.

Jerusalem: Israeli leaders have denied that they initiated the sale of American arms to Iran (David Bernstein writes). "Such allegations are a distortion and do not contain a grain of truth," Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, said.

Mr Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister speaking in Rome, repeated Israel's insistence that it was the United States that approached Israel as a friend, and Israel "responded as a friend".

Meanwhile, Mr Yosef Beilin, the political director-general of the Foreign Ministry, stressed yesterday that the affair is viewed here as a purely domestic American matter.

Egyptians lose faith in American promises

From A Correspondent, Cairo

Mr Richard Murphy, the US Assistant Secretary of State, ended two days of "tense" talks in Cairo by receiving a message from the Egyptians that a promise not to repeat the arms transfer to Iran was not enough to restore American credibility among Arabs.

In a message to Washington, Mr Murphy said the Egyptians asserted that good deeds should be translated into actions — concrete support to the moderate Arab axis and "fair" rescheduling of Cairo's military debts to the United States.

Mr Murphy, the first senior American official to visit the Middle East since the US-Iranian arms scandal, disappointed Cairo officials as

soon as his plane landed at Aswan by openly rebuffing the idea of forming a preparatory committee to an international Middle East peace conference — seen by the Egyptians as their only tangible diplomatic victory at the Mabarak-Peres summit in Alexandria last summer.

After a meeting yesterday with President Mubarak of Egypt, Mr Murphy said he was set to "explore aspects of making progress" in the stalled peace process. He was not here, he said, to mediate between Israelis on the one hand and Egyptians and Jordanians on the other.

For his personal and general security, Mr Murphy said he would not enter peace talks alone without the PLO.

Israelis kill Irish UN soldier

Beirut (Reuters) — The commander of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil) said yesterday that unprovoked Israeli tank fire killed an Irish UN soldier in southern Lebanon. Major-General Gustav Haegglund said that the firing was unprovoked.

The soldier, Corporal Dermot McGoughlin, aged 33, was killed at his UN post near Barachit village.

A Unifil spokesman said Corporal McGoughlin died after an Israeli unit near Barachit opened fire on the position with tanks, mortars and machineguns.

He said the commander of the position went up on to the roof and fired two flares to indicate that the building was occupied by Unifil troops.

But as he was coming down, a shell exploded in the room where the soldier was resting. Firing continued for another 10 minutes.

Police said control of the position had shifted recently between the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army militia and Israeli units.

The Belgian fighting a war of nerves

Brussels — For the British, it is the gun war. For the Dutch and the Danish, it is the cheese war. For the Greeks and Italians, it is the olive war and for the French, who have more at stake than the rest of us, it is the cognac war. The looming trade dispute between the European Economic Community and the United States is being fought for the time being as a war of nerves.

Both sides maintain there is no room for compromise, while hinting that some common ground might be found by the end of the month, the deadline imposed by an aggrieved US for EEC compensation for the loss of American grain sales to Spain following EEC enlargement a year ago.

One of the most remarkable features of the dispute, and one perhaps overlooked in the clamour of preparations for war, is that it is being fought on the European side not by British, French, Dutch or Danish ministers but by a crinkly haired, bespectacled Belgian — Mr Willy de Clercq, the former Belgian Finance Minister turned EEC Commissioner for External Relations.

Mr de Clercq has appeared frequently in British and continental newspapers and broadcasts since the year-long transatlantic dispute over American food exports to the EEC blew up on New Year's Eve. Many viewers and readers could be forgiven for wondering who Mr de Clercq is, and why he is empowered to negotiate on matters vital to British, French or other national interests. Why should America's demand for \$400 million compensation for lost exports to Spain imperil jobs in the French cognac or British gun export industries?

The answer is that trade is one area in which power has shifted from national capitals to Brussels, at least when it is trading interests of the 12 as a whole are at stake — which nowadays is most of the time. Because of the nature of inter-

national trade, including the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the vital triangular relationship between Europe, the US and Japan, it is increasingly difficult — and sometimes impossible — to disentangle national interests from EEC interests.

When the latest and most contentious round of the transatlantic dispute broke out, Mr Alan Clark, the Minister for Trade, declared that the EEC would

be in the spotlight, and on the spot.

Mr de Clercq appears reluctant to thrust himself further into the limelight and use the situation to acquire an even higher profile.

"External relations" is an EEC jargon term meant to refer specifically to trade. EEC foreign policy, by contrast — as opposed to commercial policy — is termed "political co-operation" and is the prerogative of the EEC foreign ministers. A typical foreign policy — or political co-operation — issue might be whether to take sanctions against South Africa over apartheid or against Syria over terrorism, both of which have figured prominently in EEC affairs in the past year.

But in the modern world it is often difficult to determine exactly where the boundary between commercial and political interests lies. Sanctions, for example, tend to mean trade sanctions. When Mr de Clercq deals on behalf of the EEC with Comecon, the Eastern bloc economic grouping, he is not in effect formulating a new Western European policy toward Eastern Europe in the aftermath of Mr Gorbachov's overtures to the West?

Most officials would say yes, even though the foreign ministers, not the Commission, formulate EEC foreign policy. This year, as the Single European Act force, many officials and Euro MPs will be reviewing the respective roles of the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers in the EEC balance of power. M Jacques Delors, the Commission President, will be arguing for an increased role for the Commission during his current tour of EEC capitals.

Many Euro MPs would like to see greater control by the European Parliament over the Commission, which is increasingly being thrust — albeit reluctantly — on to the world stage as the voice of Europe.

Call to cut UK aid to Ethiopia

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, was urged yesterday to suspend British aid to Ethiopia destined for use in a province where serious human rights abuses are alleged.

Lord Avebury, chairman of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group, gave a warning that British aid was being interpreted as support by Whitehall for a forced repatriation policy in the eastern province of Hararge.

He had received word that the British Ambassador to Addis Ababa, Mr Harold Walker, was to look into the allegations.

Ethiopian refugees who fled across the border into the tiny Red Sea state of Djibouti, the former French colony, were being rounded up at random, herded on to trains and sent to Dire Dawa, Hararge's main town. Conditions in transit were so bad that six of the first 550 suffocated and about 200 needed medical treatment. On arrival, 200 were detained in jail.

Fear of the Ethiopian authorities was so great that only 1,200 of 15,000 refugees in the Dikhil refugee camp in Djibouti had accepted voluntary repatriation. Many others were being moved against their will.

In a telegram to Sir Geoffrey, he said: "It is unfortunate that Britain should be indirectly involved in this scandal."

Lord Avebury sees the repatriation policy as part of a wider programme of forced resettlement. Large numbers of Ethiopians were moved unwillingly from the barren northern highlands to the more fertile western regions. Opposition groups claim that thousands died as a result. Addis Ababa was reported last March to have agreed to stop the process, under pressure from the EEC.

British Government aid to Ethiopia, which totalled £28 million in 1985, is broken down into small sums, mostly administered by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and various charities.

Lord Avebury drew attention to a British Government gift of water drilling equipment costing £500,000 to the UNHCR, which was presented to the Ethiopian authorities last month. Mr Walker made a presentation speech at Dire Dawa.

Whitehall sources said that the gift was to the UNHCR and it was for the agency to decide how to use it.

An Oxfam spokesman said: "Humanitarian aid to Ethiopia must not become a political football." He said that provided repatriation from Djibouti was genuinely voluntary, Oxfam would regard the gift of the water equipment as a wise use of money.



Lord Avebury: concern over "abuses of human rights".

US steps up its defence efforts so Russians will have to spend more

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The United States has accelerated the development of Stealth air, land and sea weapons in an attempt to force the Soviet Union to spend huge resources on new defence efforts, it is disclosed in the Pentagon's annual military report.

The idea is described as "competitive strategies" in the 353-page report. Mr Casper Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, said he had directed the Joint Chiefs of Staff, theatre commanders and secretaries of the army, navy and air force to rethink established practices, because high-technology weaponry and new tactics were the only way to compete with the Soviet Union.

The Stealth weaponry includes the top-secret bomber and fighter started under President Carter. This, and other weaponry in the programme, is designed to avoid detection by radar.

Mr Weinberger said that "competitive strategies" would be pursued rather than trying to match the Soviet Union "tank for tank, ship for ship, or aircraft for aircraft".

The emphasis on high-technology weaponry has led to an increasing trend for the Pentagon budget to be cloaked in secrecy. The public version of the two-year budget submitted to Congress contains many blank spaces next to exotic names.

There is a blank, for example, next to the name "latic rainbow", which is a Stealth

cruise missile being developed under "competitive strategies".

Mr Weinberger said that to cope with the Stealth bomber the Soviet Union would be forced to make an enormous investment in new defensive systems over a span of many years while their existing enormous investment became rapidly obsolete.

The Stealth "will not only dramatically degrade existing Soviet air defences, but also those of Moscow's Warsaw Pact allies and Third World client states," he said. The Pentagon estimated that the current Soviet air defence programme has cost \$120,000 million (\$25,000 million).

Mr Weinberger said the Stealth fighter would be able to evade current Soviet air defences, attack air bases and take on fighters deep inside East Europe.

In another development, it has been announced that *The Day After*, a television film which illustrates the horrors in the aftermath of a nuclear war between the United States and the Soviet Union, will be seen by millions of Soviet television viewers some time this year.

The Emmy award-winning film, which was watched by more than 100 million people in the largest television audience ever in America when it was first shown in February 1983, has been sold to Soviet television.

Mr Brandon Stoddard,

president of ABC television, said the Russians had first approached him about buying the film. The network sold it for a token \$25,000.

Mr Stoddard said the network insisted on certain conditions about showing the film, which included requiring the translation to be as close to the English version as possible. This means that the Russians cannot insert their own dialogue.

Calling the Soviet purchase "a historic event for our company and American television," Mr Stoddard said: "When we produced the film we hoped people around the world would view it and better understand the horrors of nuclear war. It is enormously satisfying to know that millions of Soviet citizens."

The film gives a fictional account of life in the small town of Lawrence, Kansas, the day after a nuclear attack. It avoids apportioning blame for the conflict between the superpowers. It shows Lawrence as a devastated community of rubble and ash, residents governed by firing squad without water or food, facing the inevitable effects of radiation.

The Russians have been trying to convince the West of their new openness under Mr Gorbachev, but are still reportedly annoyed by ABC's new series, *America*, a fictionalized account of the United States after a Soviet takeover.

Shia threat of more attacks on PLO

Damascus (Reuters) - Mr

Nabih Berri, leader of Lebanon's Shia Muslim Amal militia, threatened yesterday to step up military action against Palestinian guerrillas loyal to Mr Yasser Arafat and said Arab League mediation would not end Lebanon's "campus war".

"We appeal for the last time to our Palestinian brothers to withdraw from Maghdeleh village... or else we will drive them out by force," he told a press conference in Damascus.

In Beirut, police reported sniper and grenade fire at the Chatilla and Bourj al-Barajneh camps, despite renewed Iranian pressure for a ceasefire.

At least 700 people have been killed by the conflict, now in its sixteenth week. Palestinian sources said one man was killed and four people were injured in sporadic three-way battles with Amal.

The Palestinians seized Maghdeleh, outside the Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp near Sidon, to try to force Amal to lift a siege of the two Beirut shanty towns and of Rashidieh camp near Tyre in the south.

Mr Berri dismissed prospects that a special Arab League committee of foreign ministers, due to start visits to Damascus and Beirut tomorrow, would be able to halt the fighting.

Syria and Lebanon expressed reservations over the mission of the committee of seven Arab foreign ministers led by Mr Chadi Klibi, the Arab League Secretary-General, when it was formed at an Arab League session called by the PLO last month.



Mr Nabih Berri, the Amal leader, insisting at a Damascus press conference yesterday that the PLO must quit camps.

now agreed to meet the committee.

Mr Arafat has accused Syria of complicity in Amal's assault on refugee camps in Lebanon.

● TUNIS: The Spanish Prime Minister, Señor Felipe Gonzalez, whose country established diplomatic relations with Israel a year ago, had talks with Mr Arafat yesterday on the situation in the Middle East.

Challenge to Pretoria

Press curbs to be tested in court

From George Brock, Johannesburg

South Africa's two main English-language newspaper groups are challenging Pretoria's latest press restrictions in the courts.

New rules were rushed through late on Thursday night, widening the definition of material which newspapers are prohibited from printing about "banned" organizations.

The regulations appear to be designed to stop further publication of full-page advertisements calling for the ending of the ban on the African National Congress and the right to report its 75th anniversary celebrations.

South African Associated Newspapers and the Argus group have asked the courts to declare the ban null and void.

Mr Peter Reynolds, legal adviser to the Argus group, yesterday said the grounds for the application were that the new order was too sweeping. "It is not sufficiently clear to enable the person made responsible for deciding what he may legally do or not do," he said.

It has long been illegal to "further the aims" of a banned organization, but over the years the courts have narrowed the definition of what constitutes furthering an organization's aims.

The new provisions effectively outlaw any reporting or comment on the ANC and other banned groups, except to denigrate them.

The newspaper groups have asked for a hearing this week,

but it is likely to be postponed at Pretoria's request.

The previous round of media restrictions, announced on December 15, is due to be challenged in the courts by the opposition United Democratic Front later this month.

● People's education: Tough new restrictions aimed at stamping out any form of "people's education" in government-run black schools were sharply criticized in Johannesburg at the weekend as being counter-productive after last week's successful reopening of schools (Ray Kennedy writes).

The orders, which appeared in a special *Government Gazette* published at midnight on Friday, authorize the Commissioner of Police to ban National Education Crisis Committee (NECC) gatherings from discussing or presenting people's education syllabuses at any government school or hostel.

The NECC, one of the organizations which sponsored last week's advertisements in South African newspapers calling for the ending of the ban on the African National Congress, planned to introduce alternative history and English syllabuses in schools this term.

A leading educationalist, Dr Ken Hartshorne, of the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, described the moves as draconian and counter-productive.

Colombia reels in cocaine 'big fish'

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogotá

In sweeping raids throughout Colombia last week, police arrested 364 people allegedly involved in cocaine trafficking, while in Bogotá the United States Embassy is under virtual siege after reports that drug barons have made it a terrorist target.

The huge police operation echoed praise by Sir Geoffrey Howe for the "courageous and determined efforts" by President Barco Vargas's Government against the racket during the Foreign Secretary's visit to Colombia.

Of those detained, 72 are said to be *pequeños*, or big fish, whose names figure on a long list of drug traffickers sought by the United States under an extradition treaty with Colombia.

As a result of their arrests, telephoned death threats regularly received at the US Embassy here have risen sharply in number and ferocity. After mysteriously closing for 36

hours, the embassy re-opened last Wednesday.

Spokesmen refused to discuss the closure, but it is believed that it had received information that the *mafiosos* were planning to bomb the building as part of their campaign against the extradition treaty.

By far the biggest coup in the police operation was the arrest earlier last week of Señor Evaristo Porras Ardila, aged 37, regarded as one of the nation's top cocaine capos. Although the US drug enforcement authorities apparently have nothing on him, his extradition on cocaine trafficking charges has long been sought by Peru.

In a memorable phrase, Señor Porras once said: "I prefer a grave in Colombia to a foreign jail." He achieved national notoriety in 1983 when he figured in a carefully engineered attempt to smear the reputation of Señor

Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, a dedicated foe of the drug trade, then Justice Minister.

A congressman with close ties to Colombia's most powerful drug baron, Señor Pablo Escobar Gaviria, denounced Señor Lara for receiving a cheque for one million pesos (about £2,500) signed by Señor Porras.

The congressman produced a photograph of the cheque, proved to have entered Señor Lara's campaign funds for an electoral race.

The Justice Minister's protest that he was the victim of a frame-up was widely accepted and only led him to pursue his campaign more determinedly. After the security forces raided several big cocaine-processing laboratories, Señor Lara was killed in 1984 by hitmen of the drug barons.

His death led to implementation for the first time of the dormant 1980 extradition treaty with the United States.

Daily death threats continue to be received by the Supreme Court, which last month found questionable grounds for ruling the extradition treaty unconstitutional, a decision overturned by President Barco.

Similar threats are made to newspapers, including the Bogotá daily *El Espectador*, whose publisher-editor, Señor Guillermo Cano, was recently murdered by Mafia hit-men because of his editorial support for the treaty.

Although the police operation has hooked some big fish, the real sharks remain as elusive as ever. Even Señor Porras is not in the same class as men like Señor Escobar, Señor Carlos Lehder, Señor Gonzalo Rodríguez Gacha, and members of the Ochoa clan headed by Jorge Luis Ochoa Vázquez, who form the "board of directors" of the so-called "Medellín cartel".

The cartel is centred on the nation's second-biggest city, which manages the South American cocaine trade.

El Espectador reported this week that a police captain in La Dorada, in the central department of Caldas, has been dismissed and is to face charges for providing "police security" for the cartel's leading members when they attended an extravagant three-day carnival in the town to celebrate Señor Rodríguez Gacha's birthday last May.

Dollar multi-millionaires, Señores Escobar and company have the power and the money to remain at liberty.

Left and right denounce Aquino's constitution

Manila (AP) - The draft

constitution proposed by President Aquino was bitterly opposed from left and right yesterday. Supporters of ousted President Marcos burnt copies of the document and the left denounced it as a sham.

Nearly 700 riot police and troops, supported by barricades and water cannon, prevented a crowd of about 5,000 left-wingers from marching on President Aquino's offices at Malacanang Palace and the crowd at the barricades quickly swelled to 30,000.

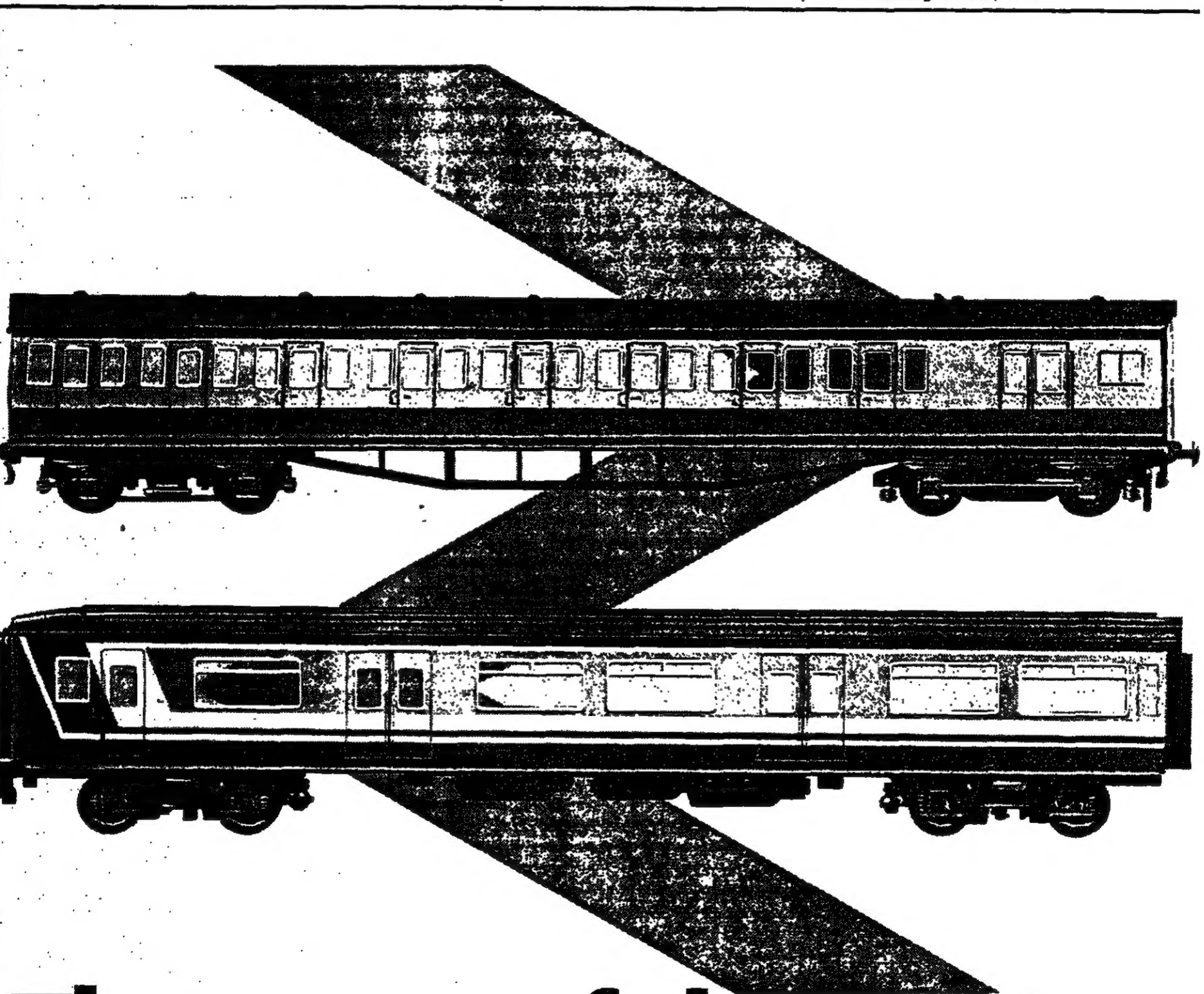
The impromptu rally was told by Mr Wally Carbonel, a former government radio

commentator, that Filipinos would "gain back our dignity as human beings" by rejecting the charter in the February 2 plebiscite.

Meanwhile, Mrs Aquino urged modest but enthusiastic crowds in three cities of central and southern Luzon to vote "yes" in the ratification plebiscite to help in restoring political stability.

Mrs Aquino denied right-wing charges that she is a dictator and that the charter will reinforce her power.

Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, dismissed last November as Defence Minister, has called on voters to reject the constitution and end Mrs Aquino's "revolutionary dictatorship".



The age of the trains

Today, as part of British Rail's renewal programme, more and more new and refurbished carriages are being brought into service. For example, on Provincial routes, the nearly 90% of carriages which today are over twenty-five years old will all have been replaced in just three years by new Pacers, Sprinters and Super Sprinters.

This transformation is just part of the huge investment British Rail is making to provide a more efficient, more comfortable railway for its customers.

New trains are already running on many Network SouthEast and Provincial lines. Three of the ten electrification schemes begun since 1983 are already complete, including the Tonbridge-Hastings line. Four more of these schemes will be completed next year. The electrification of the entire East Coast Main Line, due for completion in 1991, will be the largest single railway investment for twenty-five years.

Right across our railway system, British Rail has invested £1,400 million in the last four years. Between now and 1992, the rate of investment will accelerate with another £2,500 million going into new locomotives, coaches and diesel units, in track and signalling and in new stations.

All these improvements in the quality of British Rail's service are being achieved whilst continuously reducing the call British Rail makes on the tax payer. In fact, by 1990, British Rail's revenue support grant from the government will only be half as much as in 1983.

What is equally important to our customers is that, as Sir Robert Reid (Chairman of British Rail) says, "There will be no change in our fares policy. We all know that if fares go up too far above inflation we would lose business. We have been winning business - and we intend to go on that way."



THE ARTS

Distant emotion

The farewell kiss which Guy Burgess planted on the lips of Anthony Blunt was typical of Blunt (BBC2): stylish, styled, closely observed, but leaving one at an unbridgeable distance from the real emotions which motivated these men. Robin Chapman's elegant screenplay chose to concentrate on the events of 1951, when Burgess and Maclean defected, rather than those of 1979, when Blunt was unmasked. This was an understandable choice in dramatic terms, but odd, because in the three-way drama of 1951 it was Burgess who was the central figure — Blunt knew he was going, Maclean knew he was going, and only the hapless, drunken Burgess had to decide he had far too much to lose by staying and must desert Blunt.

TELEVISION

Abandonment by his friend was the one crushing emotional blow Blunt suffered before he was unmasked, which perhaps made this 1951 episode more like a love story than a spy drama, but the aristocratic Blunt of Ian Richardson (helpfully already a traitor in our eyes since *Tinker, Tailor*) was given just a touch of rakish dandyism in the farled hair-style, and was elegantly relaxed yet perpetually edgy.

The script tried to tolerate in its occasional artificiality. "Still point, turning world", muses Burgess Blunt's elegant flat. "No, two new cushions", ripostes Blunt. We were surely expected to know too much — Philby and the CIA connection "Homes" and Gurnow's Rees (Michael Williams, convincingly ambivalent) were tossed in without so much as a pointer. And, even with a performance of the magnificent stature of Anthony Hopkins's Burgess, it was impossible to begin to understand the mixed-up loyalties and pragmatic decisions of a tortured world. *Le Carré* is far less strange.

The state you are most likely to have been in after watching *State of the Art* (Channel 4) was a state of bemused mystification. From a whirlwind of clichés about changing images replacing social change and intense artists telling us about "the positive aspects of the post-modern condition" we were whisked into a flick through the work of four artists. The fact that three of them were German or had German links was not explained until the end, which revealed this was a co-production with WDR Cologne.

Each artist agonized about his relationship with history, but revealingly only Jonathan Borofsky was shown in touch with an actual audience. The prolonged impressionistic interludes, noises off and Keith Jarrett sound-track of this diffuse film suggested that the makers had put far behind them any mission to explain.

Bergara (BBC1) happily retreated from his obsession with the pseudo-supernatural into a plain good old murder plot where the main mystery was sorting out in which serial you had just seen all the actors. And *Cervant Confessions* (BBC1) continued to prove that the best of a live show is no use if you do not have a script on the launching pad.

William Holmes

Human background to a birth in chains

Robert Hughes, speaking at his usual pace, that of a woodcock tapping out of control through a thicket, says "I feel like an old knacker horse". He looks more like a butcher, though, with a face as florid as his manner — and his hair, which tapers into a restrained middle-part kiss-cut. He is talking of his 12-year odyssey in search of Australia's past. Began in 1974, codenamed "Kangaroo" and finally entitled *The Fatal Shore*, his resulting book is a half-deliberate echo of *The Fatal Impact* by Alan Moorehead, to whom it is dedicated.

"In a way, he got me out of Australia. In 1962 I was a freelance architecture writer in Sydney when, rather to my stupefaction, Alan sought me out and said I should go to Europe and that if I was in trouble — but not otherwise — I should get in touch with him. What was the roulette wheel and so on, I got in touch with him. He skedaddled down to his house in Porto Ercole and was a cuckoo in the nest for two months. He was the only writer I knew, the guy I most admired and the person I wanted to be. I was filled with semi-filial envy at the way he could find his subjects from the real world. If you are going to find such a subject, he said, you'll have to go back to Australia. You should think about them for how long, I replied. I didn't come all this way to think about convicts but about Piers della Francesca."

It was not until 1974 that Moorehead's carefully scattered seed took kangaroo. Then, as the high-profile art critic for *Time* and

Robert Hughes's *The Fatal Shore*, fruit of a dozen years in search of Australia's past, is published today

as presenter of a television series about Australian art, Hughes found himself in Port Arthur requiring a book that would give the background experience of Australia's convict settlers, the human circumstances of his country's birth in chains. There was no such book. "Our past was either denied or romanticized. I wrote *The Fatal Shore* to explain it to myself. Until then I'd uncritically accepted the idea that the convicts had no voice."

There was little shortage of material. "The Brits left a mound of paper the size of the pyramid of Cheops. I felt like a cockroach trying to find its way into a large cake." In deciphering the manuscripts he developed an allergy to library dust — "particularly Tasmanian library dust". He also discovered manuscripts that had never before been opened. Though the tape had long faded, the dye was still red in the knots binding the Privy Council papers in the Public Records Office. At the back of one shelf, in an envelope marked "Convict MS", was an untidy manuscript of 70 pages, festooned by water and chewed by rats. "I took it out and started reading and felt as if I'd fallen through a trap-door into another world. This was the first genuine first-hand testimony, by a good writer and a man of spirit and

indignation. Aha, I thought, now we're on the track."

Hughes found other voices. Soon it was as if he were gazing through a glass-bottomed boat that floated over the immense reef of both Australia's early history and Georgian England. "Early Australian history is English history," he stresses, citing a cartoon of George III looking about and saying "Damme, where is everyone?" "In writing about convicts I was writing about England and the 95 per cent of people who did not have a history, who did not read Dr Johnson, who did not go to Drury Lane and out of whom the working class would shape itself."

Hughes vividly describes the upheaval of those people who sailed two years before the French Revolution (in all 140,000 were to be transported) to a place more remote than the moon. "At least you could see the moon. There was no way of imagining Botany Bay, the Sodomy of the South Pacific. Most people in the 18th century only had a social radius of 10 miles."

Australia was chosen because no one was there, because of its strategic value, because there was no way of getting back and because, in the days before the penitentiary, it was thought that, by excising from society a whole class of criminality and placing it below the equator, then "bingo!" — you have solved the crime problem. He laughs throatily. "A lot of people in Reagan's government might think the same today."

The experiences described in



Hughes: "Our past was either denied or romanticized — I wrote *The Fatal Shore* to explain it to myself"

Hughes's book vary from the horrific — for instance the treatment of "cons" on Norfolk Island as if they were "agricultural implements made of meat" (one governor liked standing to leeward so he could smell the flesh of beaten women) — to the utopian. Word soon rippled back that working men could earn three times as much as in England. "Dickens proposed that he counter the view of Australia the Wonderful by making it seem terrible. In the event he never went, but Magwitch in *Great Expectations* is a magnificent perception, every one's idea of the convict and an inversion of the notion of gentility. His construction of a Victorian gentleman at long range was horrific to Pip. It revealed news about

gentility: that it was not a moral attribute of the human soul, but it could be constructed by a person he believed to be a monster."

Transportation was also to prove a refutation of the argument for genetic inheritance. A country populated during its first 50 years by men and women hand-picked for their propensity towards crime was to become obsessed by the idea of respectability.

For their first century, Hughes argues that Australians deliberately forgot their convict past — to the extent of removing a family's name from the ship's indent. As the bicentenary approaches, however, it is becoming socially respectable to show off

one's letters and peacock about as part of Sydney's First Fleet Society. Hughes is sadly exempt from such "feishism". His family were Free Irish who came from the west of Ireland in 1839 and made big land deals in Sydney. His niece is married to Malcolm Turnbull, the lawyer who represented our former spy, Peter Wright. "Malcolm's a real killer", he says proudly of the man who has done most in recent times to underline the divergence of the two cultures. "During that trial you could hear the convict every Australian imagines he has in him ranting his chains."

Nicholas Shakespeare
The Fatal Shore is published by Collins at £15.



Catchy and peppy: Marion Tait with Nicholas Millington

DANCE

Valse nobles et sentimentales
Sadler's Wells

Frederick Ashton's *Valse nobles et sentimentales*, created in 1947, was a ballet that seemed to have died of its own success: performed so often that by 1954 a rest was needed, then apparently forgotten. Now, like his *Romeo and Juliet* in similar circumstances, it is restored. Many dancers contributed fragmentary memories; Anne Heston, who originally danced the lead, co-ordinated them; Ashton revised, added and polished. The result looks new, minted yet exactly what we tantalizingly remembered.

At one level it is simply a parallel to Ravel's music (well played under Bramwell Tovey's direction), with elegant, languorous arm movements softening quick capricious steps. Sophie Fedorovich's miraculously simple designs, a pink room with screens and shadows of palms, suggest the scene to a ballroom. But characters gently, modestly emerge.

One of the girls (Marion Tait) catches every man's eye, but two especially fall for her: one (Nicholas Millington) is pushy, the other (Stephen Wick) shy, but she makes no choice between them. Another of the men moves yearningly, poetically, another flirts quickly and lightly. The whole effect is an evocation of adolescent love, nervously afraid to trust itself.

This was the ballet that first crystallized the style of the new company which has grown into Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet, and its unique blend of delicate dance invention and atmosphere can help refine and enhance the dancing of a new generation. Everyone performed well, but it will probably work better still with a younger trio in the leads. Iain Webb, Karen Donovan and Susan Lucas in subsidiary roles exactly catch the mood of innocent happiness against which the wistfulness at the baller's heart is set.

John Percival

Much of the success of the Park Lane Group's "Young Artists" week must be attributed to its cunning mixture of contrasting performing styles. The final evening's fare — a string quartet with a potentially outstanding grasp of contemporary idioms, a trombonist of heroic fortitude and a resourceful pianist — was typical in its variety.

Judging by its tightly disciplined performance of Henri Dutilleul's *Ainsi La Nuit*, the Quartet (formed in 1985 at the Royal Academy of Music) already has the technique to tackle repertoire hitherto considered exclusive to Irvine Arditti and his colleagues. In this profusely inventive 1976 score, the Apollonian demonstrated excellent teamwork, good judgement of pace and an exciting

CONCERTS

Young Artists
Purcell Room

ability to realize the subtle gradations of timbre that are so crucial to Dutilleul's textures. Their inexperience was more obvious in an urgent but rather superficial account of Debussy's *Quartet*.

The Glaswegian pianist Niall Macdonald's prodigiously managed Berio's explosive *Sequenza IV* and Copland's gritty *Piano Variations*, from memory, his Berio was admirable: light, not too heavyweight, fully capturing the whiplash, reverberative effect when those fifty clusters tumble away from the sustained chordal background. His Copland was only fitfully aggressive.

It was disappointing that the evening's only first performance, Nicholas Sackman's *Sonata for Trombone and Piano*, proved dull and unenterprising, though Martin Harvey and Vanessa Latsarich invested much energy into its sub-Hindemithian progress. The pair were ill-advised, too, in choosing Stephen Montague's flimsy *Paramelli*, which subjected a minimal number of pitches to maximum repetition. Harvey was better served by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies's tiny but quickly attractive 1984 *Sonatina*, originally for solo trumpet but seeming to sit well on the long slide.

Richard Morrison

CONCERTS

András Schiff
Wigmore Hall

obscure the fact that here Schiff approached the musical equivalent of the alchemist's dream, the results he achieved far exceeding the sum of the mechanical parts.

It was not a recital, either, in which the pianist resorted to the most obvious pieces, for Schiff began with the B major *Sonata*, D575, one of four such works completed in 1817. A sense of daring natural to any young man was evident in some abrupt and quirky harmonic excursions, though the graceful contours in the outer sections of the slow movement spoke equally of the composer's precocious emotional maturity.

In two later, better known

Modest virtues

OPERA
The Barber of Seville
Taliesin Arts Centre, Swansea

Aidan Lang's quite disarming production of *The Barber of Seville* proves the virtue of modesty. Devised for the Welsh National Opera to tour to smaller venues, it is necessarily performed without a chorus and in a very simple set, consisting of nothing but a wall of louvered doors. Yet the show does not feel at all pared down. Instead Mr Lang uses his reduced means positively to let the opera work as a chamber comedy containing more sentiment than farce, a piece peopled not by grotesques out of the old *commedia* but by creatures of Romantic sensibility.

Bartolo is now not a buffoon but an ageing gentleman in whom kindness is confused with a zeal in protecting his own interests: his care for Rosina is real, and not completely hardened into jealousy. Similarly, the tradition of presenting Don Basilio as a bony, grubby, sanctimonious cleric is jettisoned, and what we see is a large and slightly sinister figure, bulging in black frock-coat and breeches, more cynic than dupe in his venality. These two are excellently played by Julian Moyle and Peter Rose, both of whom can act and sing with the economy

and precision needed in a small theatre.

The same goes, indeed, for the whole cast. Gwion Thomas is a strong Figaro, whose wit and ingenuities are clearly aimed at making sure he survives; his collusion with the audience is mercifully chastened by this toughness, though he can certainly charm with his singing. So too can Barry Banks, who offers a nicely produced lyricism as Almaviva. Cynthia Buchanan's Rosina meanwhile contributes a great deal to the softness and seriousness of the production. At last Friday's opening performance she was clearly suffering from a foot injury, but her singing was appealingly fresh and cheerful, and she gamely kept up with what is a very mobile production.

In its mobility are the means for both emotional spontaneity and comedy. The many doors, of course, come in useful here, but more important is the richness of gesture and facial expression, allowing one to meet these characters as if for the first time. There are also good new jokes, like that of the watch-dog barking at any mention of Almaviva, to compensate for the loss of the old and stale ones. With fine designs by Nick Ormerod, a Berta (Christine Teare) who flamboyantly flings off her aria, and lively if unpolished playing under Martin André, the production will be pleasing audiences all the way from Fishguard to Mold.

Paul Griffiths

LAST 5 WEEKS
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MUST END FEB 14



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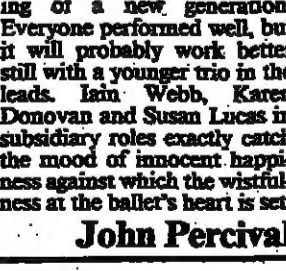


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An Imitation of
Life
Bush



On the stage there are two people, Jan Pearson and Tony Guilfoyle. They speak of three other people, Judith, Bishop and Adele. These are characters in the play. Guilfoyle is playing Bishop. He talks of himself as Bishop. She addresses him as Bishop, in the third person. Recalling how he

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has behaved, she is wondering if she can make him see how he still behaves. "Bishop's grip on reality is minimal." Pearson plays Adele.

Bishop is excavating a ruined city outside the city where he and Judith were lovers, before the crash. After the crash Judith is immobile. Bishop wants to believe the crash was Judith's suicide attempt. Then why, asks Adele, did she pack suitcases in the car? Before the crash Judith and Adele were lovers. Bishop wants a pattern. "There's got to be frameworks!" he cries in desperation. Hitherto they have spoken in sentences neutral like these. Which are evidence of reason. Like the mounds in the desert that speak silently of past habitations. There are echoes of Irish and continental writers. Iain Calvino for one.

This absorbing, original and resonant work, by Pete Brooks and Claire MacDonald of Impact Theatre Co-Operative, is performed with quite exceptional firmness and conviction by Guilfoyle, for long periods unmoving, and by Pearson, in a crumpled half-gown, gazing towards him with wide, observing eyes.

Jeremy Kingston

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FAUST
Gounod
February 7, 11, 14, 20, 24, 27 March 3, 6 at 7.30
"stunning impact... scenic and musical"
Sunday Times
The production was originally sponsored by Friends of English National Opera and is a co-production with Opera North

THE QUEEN OF SPADES
Tchaikovsky
January 14, 17, 23, 27, 30 February 5, 12 at 7.00
"completely true to Tchaikovsky... gripping and daring spectacle"
Times
The revival is sponsored by The Young Foundation

THE MIKADO
Gilbert and Sullivan
February 19, 28 March 5, 11, 14, 17, 19, 26, 28
April 1, 8 at 7.30
Reduced Price Matinees:
February 28, March 28 at 3.00
"riotous and splendidly sung... spiffing"
Daily Mail
The Mikado is a co-production with Houston Grand Opera and the Los Angeles Music Center Opera Association and the production is sponsored by Bach's Securities (UK) Ltd

DIE FLEDERMAUS
Strauss
January 15, 20, 22, 29 at 7.30
"one of the great successes of ENO's (1985) season... a remarkable opera"
Daily Express
Libretto by Philip Glass in association with Richard Boddie
Sheldon Goldstein, Robert Israel and Richard Boddie
Vocal text drawn from original sources
by Sheldon Goldstein

TOSCA
Puccini
January 28, 31 February 4, 6, 10, 13, 18, 21, 25
March 10, 13, 18, 21, 27, 31 April 3, 9 at 7.30
"Miller's finest opera staging so far"
Guardian
FIRST LONDON PERFORMANCES OF THIS PRODUCTION

SPECTRUM

Money in young muscles

For young people with energy and ideas but no business experience there is help at hand in Instant Muscle. Ronald Faux looks at one of the most practical of the government-aided employment schemes, and talks to some of those it has guided towards success

Energy, says Peter Raynes, is the best asset many young people have to offer. Coupled with enthusiasm, energy can be transformed into a job.

As proof of this, he cites his own family. "My son and three of his friends all left school with no O levels, no prospects and hardly a brave new world of work to look forward to. We sat down and added up the credit side of what they could offer a world that puts such store on qualifications and experience, both of which they conspicuously lacked."

The answer was energy. Within seconds Instant Muscle had been born, a car-shining, window-cleaning, garden-trimming odd-job agency that harnessed the energy of four young people.

Five years later Instant Muscle, based in Slough, is part of the long list of government-supported schemes for any unemployed youngster with the energy and determination to set up his or her own small business and Peter Raynes, a former company director, is its full-time organizer.

Raynes quickly realized that the problems of youth unemployment went far deeper than merely providing odd jobs for the unfortunate. "What these people really sought was a sense that the future held something substantial and worthwhile for them. That could hardly be satisfied by moving ladders."

The aim now is to help aspiring young people set up their own businesses with a properly thought-out and professionally expressed plan, convincing enough to persuade bank managers to grant overdrafts and practical enough to give clear guidelines for the two entrepreneurs to follow. Raynes claims an 82 per cent success rate for the IM-assisted businesses, of which there are now 171, with another 164 in the planning stages. Last year a further 38 went independent and are operating viably without any further help.

The organization receives £250,000 a year from the Manpower Services Commission and raises as much again from private industry sponsorship. Each business is known as a "progression" and over six months costs £1,056, of which £683 comes from the taxpayer and the rest from sponsorship. "Keeping that same young person on the dole would cost about £3,500 a year, so there is a double benefit," Raynes says.

Young British Success, page 17

THE TECHNICIAN

William Allen works in the bedroom of his home in Tottenham painstakingly soldering together the parts of amplifiers that deliver 600 watts per channel and at full volume can do structural damage to buildings. He is 19 and quietly proud of his one-man company, Collosum Audio.

He left school at 16, had some YTS training in electronics and was then guided on the path to self-employment by Instant Muscle. His amplifiers, which are used in mobile discos, require a lot of investment in basic parts and sell for £440 each.

"Some firms make them cheaper, but they don't have the same quality. I could make three amplifiers a day going flat out and maybe make £100 profit on each one but that would mean a lot of organization and employing someone else. Perhaps it will happen."



Fashionable future: Nicol Ivory is drawing on her talent for textiles

THE DESIGNER

Nicol Ivory, aged 24, lives in Wandsworth, London, with her husband Roger and nine-month-old son Luke. She has an honours degree in fashion and textiles and wants to develop her own fashion business. "The competition is fierce with the colleges pouring out new designers every year. In 1985 I got a £600 local council grant to get together a collection for the British Designer Show at Olympia. That worked well and I got some good orders worth several thousand



Elbow grease: Trevor Howard, now a one-man decorating business after assessing the prospects for success

THE DECORATOR

Trevor Howard, a 20-year-old from Fulham, applied a final coat of gloss to a picture rail. He had left school, he said, with no skills, no discipline that could be applied to a business and a few crazy ideas. He had worked with a decorating firm on YTS and after that contacted Instant Muscle with a plan for starting up his own business.

Following their suggestion he carried out a market survey of 200 houses in the Wandsworth and Tooting areas of London and convinced himself there was a strong opening for a one-man decorating business. "I had nothing to lose and quite a bit to gain if it worked out. My mates said it never would but they didn't have the guts to try." He is learning plumbing at night school and plans to use these practical skills in the house improvement boom.



Soap happy: Tony Pincham takes a chance on photographic freedom

THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Tony Pincham, aged 23, was impatient to become a successful freelance photographer. He invested over £2,000 in equipment by the simple expedient of working as a binman and using credit cards to their limit and beyond. "It was the only way I could raise enough capital," he says. "I've paid it all back now, although the interest was a bit fierce."



Distinctive detail: Kerry Fletcher at work on her intricate designs

THE JEWELLER

Kerry Fletcher is 23, lives in Ilford, Essex, and has spent more of her life after school out of work rather than in.

Nevertheless, she manages to remain extremely positive about her future. In 1984, Kerry got a job as a training supervisor on a YTS course.

"Unfortunately the good old Tory administration on Enfield Council closed it down. Imagine being made redundant on a job creation scheme."

She contacted Instant Muscle and they counted up her skills and provided a business plan. With £300 from Wandsworth Youth Development and £1,000 from the Prince's Trust she is now making intricate and distinctive jewellery and selling it through her own catalogue.

This is not a financial technique Instant Muscle recommended, but they have helped him since with guidance on how to develop and operate his business and by lending him the money for a motorcycle.

He trained in photography at college but found life as a professional hard going.

"Some people suggested that I should do pictures of weddings and babies but I stuck out for the kind of photography I really wanted to do," he says.

America's own Red brigade

US army officers are speaking Russian and working beneath a picture of Lenin; some of the staff are former Soviet citizens. Can this be a school for spies?

An old Wehrmacht barracks stands at the foot of the Bavarian Alps. Inside, four officers in American uniforms salute a half-colonel, who proceeds to ask them searching questions about the details of a military map. A perfectly ordinary scene, the casual observer might think, were it not for the fact that in one corner of the room looms a large portrait of Lenin and the language the officers are speaking is Russian.

The Western alliance can rest easy, however. No fifth column of Soviet spies masquerading as American infantry officers is ensconced near the ski-slopes of Garmisch-Partenkirchen. These fluent Russian-speakers are American students at the Russian Institute, a remarkable but little-known organization that will celebrate its 40th anniversary this year.

The institute, which was established in May 1947 by the United States Army with a class of three American officers, has since trained 750 officers to develop skills in the Russian language and to understand the workings of the Soviet mind. To this end, the students, who all have a year of Russian language training behind them before they arrive, are lectured on all aspects of the Soviet military machine. Psychological warfare, the strains affecting the Soviet Army stationed in Afghanistan and Eastern Europe, are examined along with an overall view of Soviet culture.

All lessons are conducted in Russian. In every room and corridor of the complex, the walls are plastered with Soviet posters. The entry signs into the commander's office light up in Cyrillic rather than Latin letters. The 18 full-time members of the teaching staff are former Soviet citizens, some of whom have only recently emigrated to the West. The library is packed with military treatises and heavy volumes of *Jane's Fighting Ships*. In each room, hanging proudly on the wall, is the institute's crest, a haughty double-headed imperial Russian eagle with a motto in Russian that translates wryly into "for a better future".

Inevitably, these elements, coupled with the fact that the institute stands deep inside a barbed-wire compound, suggest something of a school for spies. It is a suggestion that Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Crutcher, deputy commander of the institute, is quick to refute. "Our aim is to give officers an idea of the big picture so that they understand the way the Soviet soldier thinks. I would be deeply upset to find out that any of our students were engaged in intelligence activities during our field trips in Eastern Europe."

Soviets regard the institute as a nest of agents

Field trips in Eastern Europe? The idea of a class of American officers driving along the Carpathian road between Bucharest and Budapest and refraining from "intelligence activity" is hard to swallow, and no doubt a more abrasive journalist would have told Colonel Crutcher to tell it to the marines. The colonel remains persuasively adamant, however.

"This cannot be a school for spies. All the materials used by the students are not classified, and we've even asked the Soviets to come here as guest lecturers." The Soviets, who regard the institute as a nest of agents, perhaps understandably, have turned this offer down regularly.

Colonel Crutcher is, as he readily admits, an intelligence officer, but maintains that is only a "coincidence".

The rest of the staff, including the commander, Colonel Richard Kosevich, are gunnery or armour officers. Between lessons, conversation is heavy with the technical details of the new Soviet mobile artillery.

During the "field trips", which usually occur only once a year and are organized through the eastern bloc countries' official tourist agencies, the officers are instructed to "stick in pairs". "We also tell them to lay off the pornography going in and to refuse all invitations to visit a private house." The purpose of such visits is not

It has the ethos of a rather eccentric public school

to acquire intelligence about Warsaw Pact troop movements or equipment. This is left to what Nato personnel refer to as "national technical means", a polite euphemism for satellites and the man in the field with a pair of binoculars.

That members of the Russian Institute might be well placed to fulfil this latter function is dismissed by institute staff. "The authorities know exactly who we are and our profession from our passports." The sense that such field trips are like a school outing is reinforced by the time many students spend acquiring a Soviet hobby. Each week time is allotted to "cultural activities". Three Neuenhaus



Back in the class: Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Crutcher

In one class have become minor virtuosi on the balalaika while the chess club — all moves made in Russian — is "very popular".

All in all, the institute has the ethos of a rather eccentric public school. So far, only one British officer has attended it, a major last year, but his presence was very welcome, and all the officers who spoke to *The Times* insisted that the presence of British officers was a "trend we would like to develop". Part of the problem for British officers is the cost, which is high. But the official budget for the institute is "the equivalent of only a few tanks" and all of the officers at the school are adamant that it is very good value for money.

Of the 45 most recent graduates, only one, a field artillery officer, has not been given a posting where his expertise in Soviet matters will be utilized. Competition for staff appointments where Soviet specialists are needed is above average. A discussion of allegations by *Pravda* that Aide was invented by American scientists revealed more than ideological arguments.

Whether these men — and in some cases women — will make the perfect spy must remain a speculative thought, but one thing is clear — they will know more about the Soviet Army than any other American soldiers.

Richard Basset

Rebuilding a miracle

Salisbury Cathedral's Gothic spire has stood for nearly 700 years against all odds

Peter Taylor is the structural engineer responsible for the world's tallest Gothic spire on Salisbury Cathedral. It has been standing for nearly 700 years, but Taylor says its survival is a minor miracle.

Every fortnight for the last 20 years he has driven over from his Southampton practice to inspect it. "As I come over Pepperbox Hill it's always a relief to see it still standing. Sometimes there's a mist hiding it and your heart stops for an instant."

In the next few days Taylor will personally tighten the bolts which will take the survival of the spire — the inspiration for countless artists, writers and poets from Chaucer to Trollope to Coombe — out of the hands of providence. A "corset" of space-frames will take the strain of 375 tons of three decorative hands, which are so badly corroded "you can almost stick your thumbs through".

The space frames are 10 foot high braces which, once finally tightened, will remain in place for ever.

This is the next phase of the £6 million restoration of the West Front, tower and spire, the appeal for which was launched in April 1985 by the Prince of Wales and raised £1.3 million by the end of 1986 — £300,000 more than expected. In due course the appeal, so far confined to the Salisbury diocese, will go national.

Instructions to build the cathedral were alleged to have been given to Bishop Poore by the Virgin in a dream in 1220 and Canon Elias de Derham



Still standing: the spire and its loyal supporter Peter Taylor

had it built at a break-neck pace in nine years. The tower and spire were an afterthought nearly a century later.

A fifth of the appeal target is for the spire, and once the frames are in place the delicate task of repair will begin on the intricate quatrefoil stonework on the decorative hands, each five feet broad.

Work will last "as long as it takes" — perhaps as much as 10 years — and the spire will be behind scaffolding specially designed not to burden the foundations.

"People think they had magical skills in those days which have been lost and that we would discover all sorts of mysteries," said Taylor.

"In fact they made a very delicate and beautiful lantern and then decided to stick another 5,000 tons on top of it, without thought of what would happen in the foundations. It's a miracle that it still stands."

"The first surprise when we took a look was that the foundations went down no

more than one and a half metres; the stress is four times what we would put on it now."

"The miracle was that the place remained standing, and the most difficult decision to make was to decide not to do anything. But records and our own monitoring showed no significant movement; it had stood for 700 years, and there seemed no justification for an all out assault on the foundations, at heaven knows what cost."

Sir Christopher Wren had also inspected the spire two and a half centuries before and came to the same conclusion, recommending that regular inspections be made but they only began in 1970 after Taylor's first report.

It is not only the weather that has taken its toll on the Chalkhill limestone (which is being used again to keep faith). Iron, which was used in the original structure and subsequent repairs, has corroded and flaked, having a slow-motion explosive effect on the stone; some of the shell is only an inch thick.

Until the scaffolding is in place, inspection is only possible by abseiling down from a hatch near the top of the spire. Fifty-nine-year-old Taylor has recently lost 44% stone to increase his agility while making his surveys "hanging on a string".

"You have to be careful where you put your feet: you can take a metre of medieval stonework off," he says. "You have to accept what is there and encourage it to stay where it is," said Taylor, who is a member of the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings.

"There is a temptation to talk about 'my cathedral', but the truth is that we belong to it."

Simon Tait

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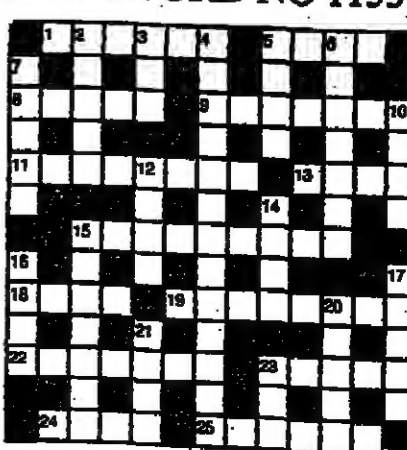
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ACROSS

- 1 Upriser (6)
- 5 Flock of quails (4)
- 8 Rinsure (7)
- 9 Nose opening (3)
- 11 Authorization (6)
- 13 Short time (4)
- 15 "Western" (9)
- 18 Wall (4)
- 19 Unconquitable type (8)
- 22 Greek bar (7)
- 23 Commemorate (5)
- 24 Cereal husk (4)
- 25 Trim (6)

DOWN

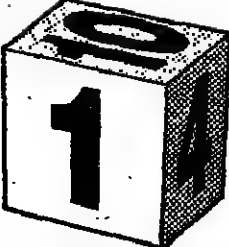
- 2 Alliance (5)
- 3 Mediterranean laurel (3)
- 4 UK govt banker (5)
- 5 Calf (7)
- 6 Variant form (7)
- 7 Cook's whip (5)



- 18 Departed (4)
- 19 Threw upwards (4)
- 20 Bullpoint (4)
- 21 Still (7)
- 22 Talk informally (4)
- 27 Burn with hot liquid (5)
- 28 Taut (5)
- 29 Broad smile (4)
- 30 Soft bread roll (3)

From first breath to second helpings

THE THREE AGES OF CHILDHOOD



Part 1: Babyhood

New babies are certainly human, but are they people? When your newborn first opens her eyes and fixes you with that unfathomable navy-blue gaze, you probably feel that she is looking into your soul. But she does not know who you are, or where she ends and you begin, so she does not even know that you are somebody.

Do you know that she is here? I'm not sure. I remember reacting with some kind of primitive recognition to my empying first baby. I remember saying: "Hello baby. I didn't know it was you." But even that suggests that she might have been somebody else spending nine months in there, and I didn't yet know her sex, either. Anyway, I am clear that I didn't know her as a person and that I couldn't have done so.

It's important, this business of knowing, because it goes with loving. Everybody assumes that parents love their babies from the beginning: if society did not assume that a "love-glue" binds families, it might feel it had to do a bit more to help. In reality, though, there cannot be love, in the sense most of us mean that word, between two people who do not yet know each other as individuals. Those rushes of scolding tenderness, overwhelming you as you cradle a hot, heavy head in your palm, are closer to unrequited passion than to the cognitive love of one person for another. Interperished with moments of panic ("I'm trapped; I'll never be just me again. Why did I have this baby?") and backed by social expectation and hormone-ridden vigilance, that passion almost always does turn into love.

There are certain key times in a child's life which are parental milestones. Dr Penelope Leach begins a three-part series with a searching look at the perceptions of mother and baby



From dummies to football: the same little boy aged one, four and 10

In front of those cameras parents shared their focus on the babies and saw what they were truly recording: human babies evolving into people, by, with and through the adults who were special to them.

Some say that the experience made them interested in babies who had previously been loved but not much thought about. Those parents agree that intellectual interest can make minute-by-minute babyhood as fascinating as it is time-consuming, and that the interest can be less fickle than love alone when the baby wakes for the fifth time in a single night.

By six months, then, you know your baby as a person and it is largely because she knows you. She may not know that you are a *Times* journalist, your firm's youngest supervisor or missing the

job that nobody will help you combine with her care, but she knows, now, that you are neither an extension of herself nor the same as any other adult she knows well.

My sister's son is two now. We share a household of three generations and what would otherwise be four families, so this baby always had many special adults and older children around. By the time he was six months old we could see and describe the separate relationship he had with each of us, and looking back, we can see that all are consistent and continuous.

His basic relationship was and is with his mother. He seems always to have known that his grandmother could be relied upon to be on his side and if there were such a thing as a relationship of pure trusting pleasure, this would be it. His relationship with me has

always had an element of challenge and stretch so that I was an early source of new adventures, and am now allowed to get away with stealing unoffered kisses, or even inserting myself into games, without the tantrum-punishments due to others who take liberties. He fell in love with a 16-year-old male cousin before he was four months old; the relationship has changed both their lives and will never, I think, become unimportant to either of them. So by six months he knew what made each of us laugh or melt and by the time he was a year he was managing us within the framework of relationships he had set up. He does not have "aunts" and "cousins". He has individual people who are all important to him and clearly all quite different to him.

If getting to know people (and therefore self) and relating to them comes first and is of primary importance, physical development and the co-ordination of

body and brain, hand and eye, matter too. Somewhere around the middle of the year a baby can sit up if someone will prop or plant her and, surprise surprise, the time when she can do that will be just the time when she needs to be upright with both hands free because she is ready to explore the world of things — the samples of the object-world, wooden spoons and rolls of tape as well as rattles and edibles, that people bring her.

At first their function does not matter; objects are just objects and to be explored as such with eye, hand and mouth. But by a year most babies know a lot about objects and their behaviour. My daughter knew enough to spit carrots and gobble ice-cream and to throw tomatoes because they would splatter and not to bother throwing a woolly ball because she knew it would not. I know that was the reason because she told me, and I shrivelled under her 15-month patronage. She clearly felt that if I did not know that, I did not know much. By a similar age my nephew knew a lot about glasses and knew which be-spectacled members of the family did, or did not, mind having them removed. Socker-Leach did not mind and that got boring. "Cry, Pen" he would command in that same tone which means "Do I have to tell you everything?"

Ordinary people walk on two feet and they talk. Many adults cannot see babies as real people until they accomplish these second-year feats, but I do not see it that way. If, during that first year, a baby had not become a real person, loving and lovable for his individual self, becoming a biped

would expose him to race-threatening dangers while early attempts at speech would go unnoticed and unrewarded. Toddlers only survive in industrial environments because (if) people love them enough to guard their every waking moment and to engage in a continual interpreter's enigma.

Our son, like most toddlers, learned to walk and run long before he acquired either brakes or steering. He seemed able to find a tree to crash into however large the space in which he was loosed, and the only answer was to get there first. Adult knees are marginally less damaging than tree trunks but he often looked as battered as we felt. His sister took the naming-game to such lengths that, for a while, she would neither eat nor do anything she had not been understood to say. Our concentration on her burgeoning vocabulary was not in the name of enrichment but of survival, hers and ours.

I am thankful that each of them had already been around for long enough for us to know and love them as people. My deepest admiration is reserved for child-minders and adoptive and foster-parents who cope with toddlers without having been in on their beginnings as people.

The First Six Months: Coming to Terms with your Baby is published this week by Fontana at £3.95. Becoming a Family, a 70-minute videotape for new and future parents, is released by Lifetime/Virgin at £9.99.

WEDNESDAY

Beyond toddlerhood: Libby Purves on life with a four-year-old

Vital statistics, larger than life

Statistics always sound so much smaller than real life. It is something to do with their baldness. The latest *General Household Survey* announces that married women over 25 are more likely to drink than unmarried ones, painting a picture of a conjugal life so bleak that wives resort to a tumbler of gin and a Penguin biscuit whenever they sit down for a snack.

If the married women are having the bottles, I don't think that marital misery is necessarily the cause. I suspect it has something to do with the fact that they share a household with someone who is inclined to say, "Would you like to wander down to the pub for just the one?", or who brings back a bottle of Rioja with the evening paper.

Housewives are more often on their own and it is a rule of life that one tends not to do things if they require the slightest effort. The thought of a glass of wine loses its appeal if one has to get off the sofa and find the corker.

The *General Household Survey* may also have found that married men eat more than single ones. In-depth investigation would show that husbands tend to get dinner served to them at home and are thereby in a position to scrape a second helping of lasagne.

Surveys tend to show that married people live longer than single ones but fail to reveal whether this is because they have a partner to cosset them out of their flint before it turns into double pneumonia or whether it is the practicing of little daily meannesses on each other that keeps the sparkle in their eyes.

Some statistics remain impenetrable. Why, for instance, should snooker be the one televised sport that is watched by more women than men? Are the matches scheduled to coincide with the hours when men aren't at home? Is the particular time-warpy that snooker players are

PENNY PERRICK

stuck in as regards hairstyles and frilled shirts desperately alluring to the female viewer?

Relying on statistical information is probably why clothes manufacturers are often in trouble. In good faith, they send out researchers to estimate the size of the average woman. Then all the average women interviewed pull in their stomachs, knock 10 pounds off their weight and add two inches to their height. And then they complain that nobody makes clothes in their size.

I have no doubt that there are figures to prove that women who take a size 12 buy three times as many clothes as those who can barely squeeze into a size 16. This makes the size 12 shoppes sound as though they have a compulsion to fill up whole suites of fitted wardrobes. But it could equally well mean that the larger women have given up trying to find something pretty in daffodil yellow and trail wretchedly around the house in their bedrobes.

I have had another thought about hard-drinking wives. Perhaps they are really quite non-alcoholic except when the man with the Biro and the clipboard comes around, when some devil within them has them declare that they drink martinis with a cherry and a little paper sunshade instead of admitting to their usual tipple being hot, sweet tea out of a chipped mug.

Similarly, unmarried women may think that owing up to their true intake makes them sound like the Desperate Spinster of old — drink in one hand and the lonely hearts column of a weekly magazine in the other. Only one thing is certain about statistics: whatever story they tell, a future follow-up survey will prove that the original figures were all lies, damned lies.

If your dog bites the postman, help is at hand. Sally Brompton reports

Get the beast out of Bonzo

The patient had a kind face but aggressive tendencies. Dr Valerie O'Farrell had seen the signs before and recognized the condition. Nervously positioning herself next to the surgery door, she diagnosed dominance aggression and prescribed a course of behavioural therapy.

The fact that the therapy was never carried out was not the fault of the patient but of the patient's owner, a school mistress, who despite a draconian professional reputation, proved quite incapable of altering her doting behaviour towards her Labrador dog.

"Can't I even give him his goodnight kiss?" she begged the psychiatrist, and continued to let the dog dominate her life.

O'Farrell, now 44, began accepting four-legged patients into her clinical psychology practice five years ago. Now two-thirds of her clients are dogs. She first had the idea of diversifying from humans after she acquired a Cavalier poodle and found that its training involved a considerable amount of psychology.

She says: "Behavioural therapy is based on animal experiments. But in my experience it doesn't work very well with humans because their complicated thought processes get in the way. I thought it would be interesting to see if it worked better with animals."

She has discovered that it does. "The dog is more simple and you can see quite clearly what he is up to."

Using basic principles of human clinical psychology, O'Farrell treats all types of disturbed dogs in her practice at the Edinburgh University Veterinary School — except those that have already bitten a child. "The treatment will not ensure that a dog won't bite again. It just reduces the probability."



The analyst and the animal: Dr Valerie O'Farrell getting to know one of her canine patients

child, you don't look at the child in isolation. You look at disturbances in the family. It is the same with animals."

In one case, involving a Jack Russell terrier who periodically chewed everything within reach, O'Farrell discovered that he only did so when his mistress shouted at her nine-year-old son. "It then emerged that she and the son were having quite a lot of problems."

With O'Farrell's help, the mother was able to adopt a

dominant and will also raise the value of your attention so that he will become quite desperate for some contact and be ready to work for it.

"And then you start rewarding obedience to your commands with your attention. So if the dog goes to the back door and wants to be let out you ignore him. A few minutes later you tell him to sit and when he does so you open the door. So opening the door is rewarding his obedience and this really is quite effective in reversing the hierarchy."

O'Farrell charges £25 for an initial consultation and £12 an hour for additional sessions. "I don't usually do any direct tests on the dogs but I can tell a lot from the way their owners interact with them."

She says there is a critical period in a puppy's life, between three and 12 weeks, when it learns that humans are part of its pack and when it forms its future behaviour patterns.

She stresses that while it is quite easy to change a dog's behaviour in later life, her success is largely dependent upon an owner's motivation. "Some owners are not really prepared to do anything while others are prepared to take enormous trouble. I tell them that we can't transform a dog's personality, but we can make him tolerable to live with."

O'Farrell says her work is rewarding because it is a new field and she is pioneering new methods. "It is a microcosm of all human life played out in a simplified way."

"You should ignore the dog when he asks for something. This will give him a very strong message that you are

'Sometimes I tell dog owners that stress in their household is the cause of the problem'

different approach to her son and as the rows decreased the dog stopped chewing.

"Sometimes I have to say to owners, 'I think the stress in your household is causing behavioural disorders in your dog and they will not be resolved until that stress is resolved'."

There is also an interesting correlation between owner anxiety and neurosis and dogs that are destructive in their owners' absence or indulge in instinctive activities out of context, such as mounting people's legs.

Owners' attitudes towards their dogs also account for many psychological disorders in the animals — particularly dominance aggression where the dog thinks he is the head of

Drink ads for the Disney fans

TALKBACK

From D. R. Atkins, Slidcup, Kent.

I refer to your article on under-age drinking (*Under-aged, over the limit*, Monday Page, December 29). Recently I took two children to see an adventure film, rated PG, at a West End cinema; seven out of 17 advertisements shown before the film were for alcohol.

On a second occasion, I took our third child to one of the timeless Walt Disney cartoons, rated U, at a local cinema; four out of twelve adverts were for alcohol. So 30 to 40 per cent of adverts being presented to those cinema audiences, predominantly comprising youngsters, were to encourage the acceptability, if not the purchase and consumption, of alcohol. My wife and I found these ratios appalling.

As I understand it, cinema trailers for forthcoming films cannot have a rating higher than the main attraction. Why, then, is encouragement to an "adult" activity such as alcohol consumption permitted among young audiences?

One immediate step which could be taken to aid the prevention of alcohol consumption amongst the young is the banning of all such advertisements at cinema showing U and PG rated films. Some, following the logic of your own article, may wish to take the argument further into the 15 category.

From Mrs C. L. Jensen, Broadham Green, Oxley, Surrey.

Your article on stress in industry (*Ran ragged by the rat race*, Monday Page, January 5) makes no mention of those men who are self-employed and run their own business. The stress put upon these people is considerable. The expression "the back stops here" has never been more apt.

For the single-handed businessman, there is no one to whom he can delegate work which he has to carry out himself. Evenings are often spent on the telephone or at his desk, frequently his office is at home so it never closes, clients and business associates know he is always available.

Answering machines, car phones and the like often help to ease the pressure, but holidays and leisure pursuits become infrequent because there is no one else who can take over. The resulting stress often leads to tension and health problems, and a vicious circle is created. The obvious answer is to learn to relax and get away from it, which of course you can't because the office is at home, the telephone rings, etc.

For those men perhaps there is no answer to the problem of stress.

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THE TIMES DIARY

No foxhole: just digs

Prince Edward, due to announce today whether he will remain in the Marines, has at least one sympathizer in court circles: the Poet Laureate. Ted Hughes may not be planning any meretricious treatment of the royal dilemma, but he does believe that Edward should be "given every encouragement" if he wishes to quit the Services. Having talked to one of Edward's Cambridge tutors, Hughes tells me he thinks the Prince's interest in archaeology could perhaps open up an alternative career. "He could make a real contribution," Hughes says. Meanwhile, I have been rereading an interview the Duke of Edinburgh gave last year. Asked by Douglas Keay about Prince Andrew's decision to stay in the Navy, the Duke replied: "I welcome it in his case. I welcome it also in Edward's case. Because what I don't think people appreciate is that there aren't many options. I suppose they could go into the Church..."

Benn's agenda

Question: Who, according to the Hugh Dalton diaries (to be published by Cape this week) "was very anxious to have a few years in the House of Commons before going to the Lords"? Answer: Tony Benn, who ten years later refused to take his seat and made such a fuss that the law was changed to allow the renunciation of peerages.

Question: How does Lord Hailsham currently sign his letters? Answer: much as Elizabeth I used to sign hers.

ys
Q.

Country Strife

The unchanging face of *Country Life* is crumbling. As the magazine celebrates its 90th anniversary this week, news reaches me of divisions and defections in the face of plans to "bring it into the 20th century". Newly-appointed editor Jenny Greene has infuriated staff by planning to drop its famous "Girls in Pearls" frontpiece in favour of news and seek a younger readership. "I want it to appeal to the young rather than the old fogey and get away from the slipshod, gifted amateur sort of writing it has fallen into," she says. Deputy editor Geoffrey Lee, who is among the regular contributors and three long-serving staffers who are leaving, told me yesterday: "It's ridiculous to try and drag *Country Life* into the twentieth century. It just doesn't belong there."

Babel belt

It is not only in local government that job titles are being turned into corporate-speak (PHS Jan 8). A south coast parish boasts a list of "ministry co-ordinators" which includes a communications co-ordinator, evangelism co-ordinator, fabric co-ordinator, music co-ordinator, overseas mission co-ordinator, pastoral co-ordinator, and youth co-ordinator. My correspondent, the church's former vicar, is puzzled about some of the titles but is able to translate others. Fabric co-ordinator apparently means churchwarden; music co-ordinator is the organist; and "parish administrator" is the vicar's secretary.



BARRY FANTONI

"What an unusual man you are, Clifford - a job up north and a house in Fenge"

Turn again

Chiswick House in south-west London, one of the finest 18th century properties managed by the Department of Environment quango English Heritage, is to have new furniture. And I do mean new. English Heritage is to commission pieces of reproduction 18th century furniture to replace the originals, which were taken to Chisworth by the Duke of Devonshire in 1892. Though the present Duke has proved far from averse to selling chunks of Chisworth to raise funds, it appears that merely buying genuine 18th century pieces as they become available will not do: the idea is to refurbish the rooms exactly as they were. English Heritage is keeping quiet about the cost. Am I alone in finding it strange that an organization devoted to the upkeep of historic monuments should be using taxpayers' money to buy reproduction furniture?

PHS

All eyes - including Mr Kinnock's, apparently - are on tax rates in the next budget. The Chancellor has expressed a preference for cuts in the rate, as opposed to lifting thresholds. He is right. Rate cuts increase the marginal value of each extra pound of earnings and are more visible to the voters. But by how much can we hope to see the basic rate cut from its present 29 per cent?

The Chancellor has to juggle roughly £1.2 billion for each penny he takes off the basic rate. Analysts looking at similar figures to those in front of Mr Lawson are guessing at a cut of perhaps 2p off the basic rate, leaving the elusive 25 per cent target tantalizingly beyond reach.

But they are looking at the wrong end of the tax scale. Attention should be turned much more to tax rates at the top levels. With the new US top tax rate at 28 per cent, a full point below our bottom rate, a world tax revolution has been set in motion. We cannot afford the loss of talent and high level skills which will follow in the wake of that change.

Mr Lawson himself accepted that in his recent *Financial Times* interview, it is hardly imaginable that the government would postpone tax cuts for the lower paid in order to help out those earning the higher incomes. Fortunately, the circle can be squared.

Studies of three major tax cuts in the United States, and one in Britain, show a constant pattern: cuts in rates at the top levels result in the rich paying more. Between 1921 and 1926, the top marginal rate in the US was cut from 63 per cent to 25 per cent, with cuts in the bottom rate at the same time. The

A fortnight from now, the people of the Federal Republic of Germany will vote in their eleventh general election since the foundation of their state on the ruins of the Third Reich. The election will be by a combination of half direct and half proportional representation. Each voter has two ballot papers; on one he casts a vote for a candidate in his own constituency (as in our system), and on the other gives his vote to a party. These impersonal party votes are tallied, and extra seats allotted in proportion; each party has ready a list of candidates for part two. In addition, there is the "threshold" principle: a party getting fewer than 5 per cent of the votes is allocated no seats from part two.

Any party is at liberty to seek votes from part two without putting up candidates in part one. Various tiny splinter groups have availed themselves of this method; in addition, neo-Nazi and Communist parties have availed themselves of it. Totalitarian parties of both right and left are banned under the constitution, but the constitutional court has wisely interpreted this rule with some latitude, presumably on the ground that it is better to see these people in daylight rather than confine them to the cellars.

This rapid guide through the German electoral system has a point, and a rather heartening point it is, too. For no anti-democratic party has ever managed to get across the magic doorstep, and at the last election, votes cast for all lists other than the five main ones - Social Democrats, Christian Democrats, Christian Social Union (the Bavarian wing of the CDU), Free Democrats and Greens - amounted to 0.4 per cent of the total cast; and that total, remember, included some perfectly harmless and benevolent groups, together with, no doubt, the German equivalent of Screaming Lord Sutch's Official Monster Raving Loony Party. (I do hope, incidentally, that his Lordship will carry out his promise to stand for the Chancellorship of Oxford University, and I hope even more fervently that if he does, he wins).

It seems from the opinion polls and other indicators that the CDU-FDP coalition is likely to be returned comfortably. But it is not the outcome of the German election that chiefly concerns me today. What does is a question raised by Herr Franz Josef Strauss, the occasionally unsteady leader of the Bavarian CSU. "It is time," he said a week or two ago, "for Germany to move out of the shadow of the Third Reich."

Herr Strauss has never lacked courage, and for him to make such a remark he certainly needed it. He is, after all, of a generation older than either of the two candidates for the chancellorship: he is 71, and both Herr Kohl and Herr Rau are 56. But whatever criticisms have been, and will be, directed against Herr Strauss for his remark, inevitably evocative of the past though it must be, I

believe he is right. It is time for the Federal Republic to move out of the shadow of Nazism. Before I am myself accused of chalking swastikas on walls and keeping a pair of jackboots in the hall cupboard, I had better explain what I mean. I do not mean (nor, of course, does Herr Strauss) that the evil of Nazism should be forgotten, minimized or ignored. Such crimes will, and should, be remembered to the end of time, no less in Germany than elsewhere.

No less, but no more. A simple arithmetical calculation should make my point clear. Hitler came to power in 1933, and shot himself in 1945. The last of the concentration camps had been overrun some months before the end of the Third Reich and its Führer; it is very unlikely that young conscripts would have been employed in them, or in the Gestapo. It follows, therefore, that any German who had even had the chance to commit atrocities under the Nazis must today be about 65.

Well, there are Germans over 65. But they are a very small minority of the whole German population. Almost all Germans living today are - must be - innocent of doing any guilty act in furtherance of Nazism. It is as pointless to ask how many would have done such acts if the war had lasted longer as it is to ask how many British people would have co-operated in the British branch of the Final Solution if the Nazis had won the war; the fact is that the Nazis did not win the war, and the exactly parallel fact is that most of the Germans who go to the polls on January 25 (let alone those still too young to do so) have no responsibility, and should feel no guilt of their own, for anything done in Germany between the rise and the fall of the Third Reich.

Some Germans, contemplating what their fathers or grandfathers did or might have done, do feel shame, even a vicarious guilt. I have talked to such people, and admired their willingness to shoulder the burden of others' pasts. But the shouldering must be vol-

Cut top tax rates and raise more revenue

by Madsen Pirie

result was that the upper level taxpayers (earning over \$100,000) were paying 86.3 per cent more in real terms by 1926, while those earning below £10,000 were paying 79.3 per cent less.

Cuts in the 1960s and 1980s produced a similar effect. The 1964 US tax cut took the top rate down from 91 to 70 per cent, with corresponding cuts lower down. The top 5 per cent of earners paid 7.7 per cent more in 1965 than in 1963, and the bottom 50 per cent paid 9.2 per cent less.

Similarly the 1980s tax cuts saw the top 5 per cent paying 3.2 per cent more tax in 1983 than they had in 1981, with the bottom 50 per cent paying 8.3 per cent less. Plainly, if one wants to "soak the rich," the way to do it in the US is to cut their tax rates.

Does this also apply in Britain? The experience of the tax cuts since the Tories took office suggests that it does. Comparing the proportion paid by the top few per cent of income earners, one finds their share of the total taxes paid has increased over the period of Thatcher government, as the

accompanying table shows.

The apparent paradox is explained by the increase in the tax base which accompanies the cut in rates. The rates might be lower, but the amount of taxable income is sufficiently higher to more than offset the rate reduction.

Cuts in marginal tax rates at the upper levels raise the cost of various methods of lowering taxable income. With a tax rate of 60 per cent rather than 38 per cent, criminal concealment is less attractive, complicated systems of tax avoidance become less enticing, and the movement of tax liability offshore becomes less worthwhile.

In addition, there is the obvious incentive effect. Leisure becomes more expensive if the value of

Share of taxes paid by Britain's top earners

	1979-79	1985
Top 1%	11.2%	12.0%
Top 2%	15.4%	17.0%
Top 3%	18.8%	20.7%
Top 4%	21.6%	23.9%
Top 5%	24.0%	26.7%

Source: Treasury

Bernard Levin

The goosestep is dead: long live the phoenix



Strauss: "Time to move out of the shadow"

believe he is right. It is time for the Federal Republic to move out of the shadow of Nazism.

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Some Germans, contemplating what their fathers or grandfathers did or might have done, do feel shame, even a vicarious guilt. I have talked to such people, and admired their willingness to shoulder the burden of others' pasts. But the shouldering must be vol-

untary; the innocent are fully entitled to maintain their innocence. For many years the Germans in general, even those who were manifestly too young to have done wrong, were regarded with suspicion as understandable as it was unjust. (Remember that only a minority of Germans who could have done evil actually did so.) It was to the interest of the far left in countries like Britain to foster such suspicion, and they worked at it assiduously. But there were many people with no such political purpose who felt unease at the very thought of Germany.

I have never been one of them. Of all European countries other than my own, I know Germany best. I started going there when I was a student, and have always felt happy there, though of course I wondered from the start just what the father of the family I was sharing a restaurant table with had done between 1933 and 1945. But as the years went by, the wondering shrunk as the families grew up and the fathers died.

For nearly four decades, West Germany has been among the most, fully democratic nations on earth. She has made her peace with Israel; one of the most affecting sights of my entire life was that of the Federal Republic's emblem on the wall of the then newly established German embassy, Bonn. More, she has never ceased to pursue the tattered remnants of Nazi war criminals (unlike Austria, which never even started).

She has been a loyal member of Nato, under both CDU and SPD governments. She has contributed in great measure to the work of the United Nations since, in 1973, she became a member. She has been infinitely patient in accepting the countless breaches by East Germany of the peace treaty which she has herself scrupulously kept (even now, Lufthansa planes do not fly to or from Berlin); she has even respected, from the start, the criminal act of the building of the Wall.

In short, the Federal Republic's *Drang nach Canossa* has long been completed. She is entitled to a presumption of innocence before the bar of the world, and anyone who wishes to accuse her is under an obligation to produce the evidence. They will find it hard to do. I doubt if there is a single German politician, in any party represented in the Bundestag, who would argue that Nazism should now be forgotten, let alone condoned. But most of them, I imagine, would say that they are entitled to consider their political debate today without feeling obliged to discuss it, which is plainly what Herr Strauss meant when he said that it is time for Germany to move out of the shadow of the Third Reich. So it is, and I hope that his assertion is widely accepted within the Federal Republic, and no less widely outside it. I wish the Germans a peaceful and unembittered election, and a further period of untroubled democracy. *Prost!*

work is increased. People who might have sat at home or gone boating rather than pay punitive rates find these activities cost more when rates are lower because more money has to be forgone to engage in them. People who might have declined to raise their incomes up to a 75 per cent band will be less resistant to entering a 60 per cent tax band.

There is, finally, a volume of evidence that lower marginal tax rates correlate to economic growth, and a general increase in the wealth of society. The question is: what should the rates be?

Professor Lawrence Lindsey, of Harvard University, compared actual taxable income reported with what was predicted when the cuts were made. He concludes that the revenue-maximizing upper rate is 33 per cent. Even if all the hostile analysis about the effect of interest rates and changes in income distribution is accounted for, he still comes up with a maximum rate of 50 per cent. And he himself suggests that the revenue-maximizing top rate lies at about 40 per cent.

The message is clear. A cut from 50 per cent to 40 per cent in the top rate of income tax would not have to be paid for in the way that basic rate cuts have to be. On the contrary, the evidence is that it would raise revenue.

Thus not only would it reduce the differential in tax rates between Britain and America which might otherwise drain our talent pool; it might also give the Chancellor the chance to reach that magic 25 per cent basic rate sooner than otherwise.

Madsen Pirie is president of the Adam Smith Institute, which recently published *It Pays To Cut Taxes*.

untary; the innocent are fully entitled to maintain their innocence.

For many years the Germans in general, even those who were manifestly too young to have done wrong, were regarded with suspicion as understandable as it was unjust. (Remember that only a minority of Germans who could have done evil actually did so.) It was to the interest of the far left in countries like Britain to foster such suspicion, and they worked at it assiduously. But there were many people with no such political purpose who felt unease at the very thought of Germany.

I have never been one of them. Of all European countries other than my own, I know Germany best. I started going there when I was a student, and have always felt happy there, though of course I wondered from the start just what the father of the family I was sharing a restaurant table with had done between 1933 and 1945. But as the years went by, the wondering shrunk as the families grew up and the fathers died.

For nearly four decades, West Germany has been among the most, fully democratic nations on earth. She has made her peace with Israel; one of the most affecting sights of my entire life was that of the Federal Republic's emblem on the wall of the then newly established German embassy, Bonn. More, she has never ceased to pursue the tattered remnants of Nazi war criminals (unlike Austria, which never even started).

She has been a loyal member of Nato, under both CDU and SPD governments. She has contributed in great measure to the work of the United Nations since, in 1973, she became a member. She has been infinitely patient in accepting the countless breaches by East Germany of the peace treaty which she has herself scrupulously kept (even now, Lufthansa planes do not fly to or from Berlin); she has even respected, from the start, the criminal act of the building of the Wall.

In short, the Federal Republic's *Drang nach Canossa* has long been completed. She is entitled to a presumption of innocence before the bar of the world, and anyone who wishes to accuse her is under an obligation to produce the evidence. They will find it hard to do. I doubt if there is a single German politician, in any party represented in the Bundestag, who would argue that Nazism should now be forgotten, let alone condoned. But most of them, I imagine, would say that they are entitled to consider their political debate today without feeling obliged to discuss it, which is plainly what Herr Strauss meant when he said that it is time for Germany to move out of the shadow of the Third Reich. So it is, and I hope that his assertion is widely accepted within the Federal Republic, and no less widely outside it. I wish the Germans a peaceful and unembittered election, and a further period of untroubled democracy. *Prost!*

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data. Conan Doyle was a little embarrassed by the popularity of his monstrous pot-boiler, and tried to kill him off at the Reichenbach Falls. Popular demand forced him to resurrect Holmes, causing Dr Watson to faint for the first and last time in his life. You could speculate about the attractions of infallibility.

All other men are specialists, but his specialism is omniscience. You might notice the Robin Hood element of the Victorian superman, who is prepared to go above and outside the law to show mercy to the deserving. You should note the pull of nostalgia for a supposed golden age, bathed in the warm sunlight and pea-souper fog of Victorian certainties, where every problem had a solution, there was always a cab at hand, and a fast train that ran on time, and when one could deduce that a man had stayed at one of the most select London hotels from the fact that he paid eight shillings for a bed and eightpence for a glass of sherry. "There are not many in London which charge at that rate." You would probably be more prudent just to say: "Happy Centenary, Holmes. You are a phenomenon."

Philip Howard

Anne Sofer

Exams: facts and frenzy

Four weeks ago I drew attention on this page to the little acknowledged improvement, admittedly slow, in school examination results over the last decade. This modest tribute seems to have infuriated Roger Scruton, who devoted his last column to denouncing my facts, sources, arguments and politics. It was a somewhat flailing response, with each punch-packed argument cancelling out the one before. Disentangled, his points were five:

● Any rise in exam successes must be largely attributable to the independent schools, which the DES has "tendentially" included in the overall figures.

● Even if there has been an improvement in the exam results of the state sector (which is not admitted) it would have been far greater if the secondary school system had remained selective.

● Considering how much money has been spent on education, it is astonishing that the improvement (if it exists) is so modest.

● Talk of improvement is meaningless because the "pass" standard at each level has dropped.

● The increasing number of "soft option" subjects has made examination success very much easier than it used to be.

Let me take these onslaughts one by one. First, the DES documents to which I referred does in fact provide separate figures for "All Schools" and "Maintained Schools only". I quoted the "All Schools" figures, but my point would have been supported more strongly by quoting the "Maintained Schools only" figures. Thus, while the proportion of leavers gaining at least one A level rose by 7 per cent in all schools, in maintained schools only it rose by 9 per cent. Of leavers without A levels, the proportion leaving with five or more O levels rose by 30 per cent in all schools and by 36 per cent in maintained schools only. So the first Scruton salvo boomerangs.

The second and third arguments are hypothetical. The DES has done some work on the inter-relationships between school standards, socio-economic factors, spending levels and type of school organization. The main finding is that socio-economic factors contribute more to children's academic success than any other factors - to the extent of explaining 86 per cent of the variation. By comparison, differences in spending levels and whether or not secondary schools are selective are barely significant.

This, I would agree with Roger Scruton, is a depressing finding. We have not yet (either in comprehensive or selective systems) overcome the close connection between social class and academic performance, even though many individuals in both forms of organization escape it. But research on the differences between individual schools within the same system offers some more helpful pointers. Schools can make a difference. *Fifteen Thousand Hours*, the new classic study of 12 inner city comprehensive schools, contained the astonishing

evidence that the bottom group in one school was getting better results than the top group in another with a similar intake.

Some of the factors associated with success were identified: high academic expectations, emphasis on homework and punctuality, good working conditions for pupils and the plentiful use of praise and rewards were among them. So also, notably, was the presence in the school of a significant proportion of able pupils. Lack of these pace-setters led to poorer results all round, as well as a greater tendency to delinquency.

The fourth argument, that the standard represented by a typical pass has fallen, is again unprovable. The examination boards insist that it is not so. Anecdotal evidence is in conflict. Generalizing, as was Roger Scruton, from my own experience, I would say that I can see little difference, in terms of content or difficulty, between the A level English papers I sat 30 years ago, those I taught 25 years ago, and those my son took last summer. I understand that as far as maths and sciences are concerned, the syllabi have changed so profoundly that it is hard to make comparisons. In the future, when the new GCSE is "criterion referenced" we may have clearer answers to this question. But I understand that Roger Scruton is not in favour of this reform.

And finally, on the issue of soft options, I refer again to the DES statistics. Sociology, which fills Mr Scruton with a particular rage and horror, accounts for only about 2 per cent of school examination entries; art and craft, which he also disparages, only a further 5 per cent. Contrary to what you might sometimes assume to be the case from the popular press, the traditional academic curriculum - English, maths, science, languages, history and geography - still accounts for well over three-quarters of all examination entries.

But it is at this point that a frenzy takes hold of Mr Scruton and those who think like him. To them, every corner of the nation's schools is permeated with peace studies, homosexual propaganda, and left-wing agitation. Local authority advisers, DES officials, even Her Majesty's Inspectors are engaged in a powerful and wide-spread conspiracy to subvert academic standards. Civilization itself is in peril.

If this were merely a private delusion it would be amusing, but there are dangerous signs that it is spreading. The real worry is the way in which this fiction undermines what it purports to defend. Like their mirror images on the far left, they confuse polemic and research. They use invalid syllogisms. Great times, it is said, are bad times for schools. Great is a local education authority. Therefore all local education authorities are bad times for schools. They do not check their facts.

Maybe there is a real worry after all about academic standards. The author is a member of the SDP national committee.

moreover... Miles Kingston

The Palace has no comment...

Many readers who have been following the Prince Edward saga have written to ask what is meant by the phrase: "The Marines have been trying to persuade the Prince to stay in the regiment."

Normally it means that ten officers set on one person and kick him a lot until he is persuaded, but with Prince Edward it is likely to be rather different. All these things are done by age-old ritual, and the royal ceremony of Untrooping the Colour is usually adhered to on the rare occasions when a child of the sovereign is brave enough to want to leave the Services. The first part of the ritual is the Meeting of Prince and Father:

The Prince shall enter unto the Father, saying: Ho, Father, ho. Father: Who goes there?

Prince: Thy son.

Father: Hail, son. Canst not see I am very busy saving the Tasmanian dervisee from extinction?

Prince: Save also thy son! I would leave the Marines.

Father: I cannot believe my ears!

Prince: Thy ears must be believed. I want out.

Father: Thou art a scurvy wimp! It would make a man of thee...

This leads directly to the next part of the ritual, the Royal Rage, which lasts two hours, is somewhat repetitive and can be omitted. Then follows the exciting Visit of the Commanding Officer.

The Prince and Father shall be sitting in the Royal chamber. Suddenly the windows shall be burst in and doors kicked down by a detachment of Marines in ball-claw helmets. The Commanding Officer shall then swing in on a rope and land on the Prince's chest.

Officer: Hail, Prince. I have come to persuade thee to return.

Prince: Never! The officer jumps up and down a little on his chest.

Officer: I don't think I heard that.

Father: I say, steady on!

Officer: Hail! Who is this impeding Her Majesty's Marines?

On a signal, two marines give the Father a little going-over.

Prince: Thou seest, Father? It is like this all the time.

Father: Hmm. Thou maybe hast a point.

At this point there normally follows the Reunion of Mother and Son. The Queen shall enter and, upon seeing the men in ball-claw helmets, shall say:

Queen: Is this one of my regiments or one of yours?

Prince: O mother! They are taking me back to camp!

Officer: Father: There shall be march all day and freeze all night. Until he learns to vomit and shoot and fight.

The process may be cruel, the ordeal grim.

But it will surely make a man of him.

Here shall the Marines sing, a chorus of Yomp, Yomp, Yomp, the Boys are Marching.

Queen: Son, what sayest thou?

Prince: I do not wish to be made a man of I wish to study history.

Father: What! Sit in a room and read books?

Officer: What? Use thy mind and brain?

All together: Truly what we call an ordeal! Give us marching and shooting any time!

The ceremony now moves into the final stage with the ritual of the Return of the Ghost of Edward VII, Prince of Wales. He shall appear unto all and say:

Ghost: Ah hem. Greetings, descendants all. Is there a royal son among you?

Princes: Yes, I.

Ghost: To you I make apology. As a youth I went wild, preferred Paris to London, and the boudoir to the barracks. I drank and gambled, swore and smoked. Ever since, they have put all royal princes straight into the Services, to stop them going like me. Did they do it to you too?

Prince: Aye, that they have. But now I wish to leave.

Ghost: To chase actresses and smoke cigars? Good lad!

Prince: No, no - to study books! He vanishes. The company leaves, bewildered. Finally, from under a sofa covers a Sun reporter, clutching a tape recorder.

Reporter: Hot diggity! What a story!

There now follows the ceremony of Holding the Front Page, etc.



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TAKEN FOR GRANTED

Paying the living costs of half a million students in higher education costs nearly £700 million a year. Yet even the Government accepts that it is not enough to cover their essential needs. The interested parties put it in a good deal stronger. According to the vice-chancellors, the Association of University Teachers and the National Union of Students, the situation is critical. Student hardship, they claim, has reached an unprecedented level. The vice-chancellor of Durham has even raised the spectre of vitamin deficiency in the student body.

The higher education lobby's case is likely to be strengthened by a report to be published tomorrow by the Commons select committee on education. Although Conservative-controlled, it is expected to recommend a substantial increase in the grant.

But should it? And at whose expense?

In 1962, when the grant was introduced, 98,000 students benefited. In 1963 the Robbins report recommended a huge expansion of higher education. In 1964 the birth rate reached its peak. By 1979 the number of students in receipt of a grant had rocketed to 369,000. Last year it was 468,000. As the Government never tires of pointing out, there are now more students in higher education than ever before, both in absolute numbers and as a proportion of the age group.

But student maintenance cannot simply be exempted from the need to bring public spending under control. Accordingly, the grant's annual uprating has been squeezed. The result is a painful paradox: as the cost to the taxpayer has inexorably risen, the value of the grant has declined, steadily since 1962, sharply since 1979.

At the same time, the Government has increased the means-tested parental contribution by nearly 50 per cent. It would have been even more but for a back-bench revolt two years ago. Still, the "contribution" is now almost as much honoured in the breach as the observance: more than 40 per cent of parents either cannot or will not pay their dues in whole or in part.

Hardship, consequently, has grown and so has dependence on social security: last year an estimated 235,000 students were regularly resorting to supplementary benefit or housing benefit or both. This year their entitlement is being restricted to the long vacation, the Government arguing, quite rightly, that student support and social security should never have become entangled in the first place.

However, the Conservatives have never seen these measures as anything but a stop-gap. As long ago as 1978, Mrs Thatcher promised a thorough review of the whole system. Her first Secretary of State for Education, Mr Mark Carls, started and abandoned one. So did her second, Sir Keith Joseph. Her third, Mr Kenneth Baker, announced his six months ago, under the chairmanship of the higher education minister, Mr George Walden. A Green Paper is expected, but not until after the general election.

The hurdle they have all had to face — and at which the first two have fallen — is whether and to what extent grants should be supplemented by loans, as is the case almost everywhere else in the industrialized west. Students have always been against this. At one university after another, they have, been solemnly polled: would you prefer to (a) contribute towards the cost of being here by taking out a loan or (b) carry on enjoying it for nothing? That is not quite how the question is put, yet at Cambridge last term, to no one's surprise, 86 per cent actively voted for (b).

The most potent argument against loans is that they are likely to deter those who are not young, white, unmarried, able-bodied, middle class and male — in other words, in higher education's terms, minorities, at the very mention of which the contemporary mind recoils. But loans, like minorities, are an elastic concept. So let us define what we mean.

To replace grants altogether with a system of loans, as West Germany has done, would be initially expensive. Still more important, would work properly only in a booming economy in which business had a more developed tradition than it does here of contributing to the cost of educating its

workforce. Similarly, the validity of objections to a mixed system of grants and loans — which exists in most other western countries — depends on the proportion of each.

The case to be met is simple. British students, especially in the more expensive parts of the country, need more money to live on. The British taxpayer, who already contributes more generously than any other — and whatever emerges from Mr Walden's review must be "broadly commensurate" with current spending. British parents are unwilling or unable to contribute any more. At present those earning £15,000 are expected to pay £1,142 a year.

Let loans, then, absorb the strain. Instead of the existing messy system of privately arranged overdrafts, the Government should guarantee bank loans to all students who want one at a subsidized interest rate up to a ceiling of, say, £1,000. Few students borrow more than that now. Repayment would start once the recipient is earning the national average wage. The disabled, the non-earning married and those discriminated against by employers would thus be exempted.

No one is suggesting that students should have to contribute a penny to the cost of their tuition, a gift worth more than £10,000 for a three-year arts degree from taxpayers who, in the main, do not have the standard of living most graduates will enjoy. And the cost of this initially modest proposal would depend in part on the extent to which the Government chose to subsidize the rate of interest. At, say, 5 per cent, and assuming a 100 per cent take up, it would rise at the rate of £15 million a year to around £100 million before the money started flowing back.

In return, the Government would have slain the dragon: a fledgling loan system would be in place and could thereafter be adjusted; the grant could be frozen at or near its present level; the higher education lobby, after an initial howl of disapproval, would be placated; and students could get on with their work without having to worry about where the next vitamin was coming from.

PRISONS IN TURMOIL

When long-term convicts study for Open University degrees in sociology, it is hardly surprising that the rooftop rampage at Barmine should end with the rebellious prisoners' demand for an independent inquiry. But independent of what or whom?

And to what question should such an inquiry address itself?

We already know that prisons north and south of the border are not pleasant, least of all the high security units, whose inmates were sentenced for the most serious and violent crimes and to the longest sentences. Men with little either to look forward to or to lose have a permanent temptation to express their frustration from time to time by outbreaks of violent defiance.

In addition, the prison authorities face a dilemma. The number of prisoners has increased alarmingly since the war. Scotland now imprisons twice as many people per capita than England and Wales.

In these circumstances, the prison authorities' legitimate interest in maximising the reformative side of imprisonment, and in protecting less hardened or violent inmates against corruption or intimidation by the violent minority, while maintaining security levels appropriate to

each category, has brought about segregation in special units, such as Peterhead and Barmine B. Yet this very concentration may provide a propitious breeding ground for violence.

This complex of problems should warn against glib advice to the prison authorities, particularly since they handled the riots themselves with firmness tempered by patience and brought them to an end without injury to either hostages or rioters, and with serious damage only in one case. This merits congratulations rather than inquisition.

But what of the incidents and practices which led up to the rampage? Allegations of overcrowding — though true for Barmine as a whole — do not appear to be justified about the Barmine B unit in which the riot occurred. Charges of brutality by prison warders, however, are much more difficult to prove or disprove satisfactorily. And when they persist, there must be some disquiet.

It is maintained, of course, that if prisoners have specific grievances, they are free to complain through existing channels which include the prison governor and Inspector-General of Scottish prisons, answerable directly to the Scottish secretary, to the police and procurator fiscal, and

directly or through relatives to their MP or a solicitor. What this overlooks is that some of these channels, perhaps inevitably, are the objects of the prisoners' complaints.

Misgivings on such scores had already led to the setting up of two enquiries. Scottish prison officers and authorities have established a working party on alternative prison regimes which is due to present its interim report shortly. And after the Peterhead siege, Scotland's chief inspector of prisons was asked to examine general grievances in the prison. Both reports will be closely studied in the aftermath of Barmine.

But the Scottish Secretary should ask himself whether in all the circumstances he can afford to wait. If, as is widely believed, prisoners' grievances have led to three violent riots in Scottish prisons in as many months, might he not ask one of his junior colleagues to conduct an immediate and confidential investigation into them? Some action is required. And such an investigation would avoid the principal pitfalls of a public enquiry — namely, implicitly justifying the unproved accusations of the prisoners and distracting the prison service from restoring the prisons to order and carrying out their thankless task of shielding society.

'Army of morality'

From Sir Neil Pritchard
Sir, There seems to be an increasing tendency on the part of the Press to take at their own valuation the claims of organisations — such as those referred to in the Spectrum article "Foot soldiers of the army of morality" (January 5) — to be the guardians of morality. Should these claims go unquestioned?

To take some examples. Mrs. Gillick argues that parental right of control over their children is a moral imperative. Is the legislation therefore immoral which (e.g.) insists that all children be educated and which prevents children being sent to work?

Digby Anderson, in the name of

morality, inveighs against the present state of the divorce laws. Does he want a return to the sordid business of hotel-bedroom evidence for adultery? Does he think that it will necessarily be better for the children if two people who dislike each other are forced to live together?

If the family is to be regarded as *ex hypothesi*, a temple of goodness, where we are to do about the growing evidence of child abuse by parents? Is not our present pre-occupation to single parents preferable to the Victorian "never cross my doors again" posture? Is not the organisation which succours battered wives itself performing a moral function?

The Victorians themselves were not all as rigid as some of these

present-day protagonists — remember Anthony Trollope whose delicious heroine, Mary Thorne, was illegitimate and who, in *The Vicar of Bulhampton*, protested against society's then treatment of the "fallen woman" for "so small a crime", as he put it.

What is morality? Enlightenment rather than dogma would be preferable. It does not seem to be adequately interpreted by these codes of behaviour. Perhaps the key consideration is compassion, or "charity" as the Bible has it.

Yours sincerely,
N. PRITCHARD,
Little Garth,
Daglingworth,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire.
January 5.

Threats to hope of Afghan peace

From Mr Sandy Gall

Sir, Your excellent leader on Afghanistan (January 6) just misses the mark, I believe, in its final paragraphs. The point is not, as you say, that a disunited Afghan resistance will be unable to "bargain terms for a new government of Afghan unity."

Although dismissed on many things, the seven-party alliance is completely united on this point: it will not accept a communist government in Kabul. It is important to recall that the *jihad* (holy war) began well before the Soviet occupation of December, 1979, and was in response to the communist coup of April, 1978.

Even if all 115,000 Soviet troops withdraw tomorrow, the question that exercises all the Mujahidin, without exception, is who will run the country after the Russians have gone? If the answer, as all the present signs indicate, is Dr Najib and his People's Democratic (Communist) Party of Afghanistan, whether at the head of a government of "national reconciliation" or not, the Mujahidin will totally reject it.

They have been fighting for nearly nine years for the right to choose a government by democratic means, as distinct from one imposed on them by a *coup d'état*. If they have managed to thwart Soviet attempts to bring them to heel by force for seven years, it is unlikely that they will now willingly accept Dr Najib as the leader of a post-occupation Afghanistan.

They will undoubtedly continue to fight until there is an Islamic Mujahidin-controlled government in Kabul, with the same determination as the North Vietnamese/Vietcong fought in Vietnam. As one of their leaders, Ahmed Shah Massoud, put it to me last summer: "we will carry on fighting until we achieve victory or death."

Yours faithfully,
SANDY GALL,
Doubledon Court House,
Peasmarsh, Kent.
January 6.

Man's freedom, with responsibility

From the Archbishop of York

Sir, I find it odd that some of your distinguished correspondents should be so wedded to determinism in that most difficult of all fields, the study of human behaviour, at a time when in the field of physics it looks decidedly shaky. Perhaps part of the trouble lies in the slipperiness of the word itself.

If determinism means that everything that has happened from the beginning of time follows inexorably from those first beginnings, then many physical phenomena, especially those encountered in quantum theory, seem to disprove it.

If, on the other hand, it means that all events are caused by other events and that, given sufficient skill and patience, it is possible to trace a pattern of causes, then causal determinism is simply the methodological presupposition of all orthodox sciences, and as such is to be accepted as a useful instrument. But it does not follow from this that all events can in principle be predicted. Tracing causes and predicting futures are very different exercises, as any evolutionist knows.

If, thirdly, determinism means no more than that some futures can be predicted on the basis of some causes, then it is manifestly true, and this letter could never have reached you were things otherwise.

In applying all this to human behaviour it is tempting to stress the huge complexity of the subject as a way of covering up unexpressed assumptions about the kind and degree of determinism which is being claimed. It is clearly possible, for instance, to understand many aspects of human behaviour in terms of factors which may have predisposed it.

Human action, even that which seems most free, is not uncaused; to claim to have acted freely is not to claim to have had no basis for one's action. Indeed, one plausible definition of freedom is in terms of action which is fully in accord with, and thus in a weak sense determined by, the character of the person concerned, i.e., unconstrained by external factors.

But such an interpretation, far from undermining a sense of personal responsibility, means that the acceptance of responsibility for one's actions is a necessary condition for being free. Freedom is not an extra something which may or may not form part of an otherwise deterministic human nature. It is a way of being oneself by accepting that one is accountable for oneself; such freedom grows as it is exercised. Hence one of the conditions for

Verdict on Kettle

From Dr Angus Calder

Sir, My attention has been drawn to Bernard Levin's attack on the late Professor Arnold Kettle (January 5) in which he made much play with an obituary which I wrote for *The Independent*. I cannot, as he predicted, accuse him of "spitting in Kettle's grave", since I wrote on the day of Kettle's funeral; Mr Levin's spittle fell among family and friends freshly grieving.

No *trahison des clercs* was involved in working with a man active throughout his life in the CPGB (Communist Party of Great Britain) and Mr Levin's suggestion that there was skuldery men and women of very varied political opinions. We live in times when careful discrimination is essential and when all long-term

political choices have been problematic.

As to discrimination, Mr Levin, when not on his high moral horse, must himself see clearly that Stalinism was not the inevitable result of Marxist ideas but of the perverted application of some of them in the context of Russia's distinctive history. Communists in Western Europe have thought and worked in different political traditions.

Anyone who knew Arnold Kettle well would place him within the traditions of English radicalism — embracing Bunyan, Blake and Dickens — which he celebrated as a literary critic. After his conscience was stirred by the threat of Fascism in the 1930s, Kettle's long-term choice was to work for a party which supported the Soviet Union after 1945 in a Cold War

Right to vote in N Ireland

From Mr Stuart A. Northolt

Sir, Kenneth Minogue, in his article, "Do we really want political apartheid?" (January 3), fails to appreciate that exactly that kind of political discrimination he condemns already exists in a highly developed form in Northern Ireland.

He observes that "inter-communal trouble results in people scurrying back to those of their own kind. This is indisputable, but in Northern Ireland is only half the story."

It is not widely appreciated that the sectarianism of Ulster's politics may be attributed directly to the failure of the major political parties, those parties which have a realistic chance of forming the Government of the United Kingdom, to accept candidates in Northern Ireland as they do throughout the rest of the UK.

Since British parliamentary democracy is founded on the party system, this boycott has devastating implications. The loss in Ulster of public confidence in the whole democratic system is, in the aftermath of the signing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, tragically self-evident.

Furthermore, because Ulster people are not permitted by the respective party organisations to be Conservatives or socialists, Liberals or social democrats — the only political mechanism by which common ground may be found between differing religious groups — they are condemned to the desperate and sterile parochialism of the Loyalist versus Nationalist debate. Voting in Ulster is a futile exercise, since it merely affirms or denies, in varying degrees of vehemence, an individual's desire to remain British. The higher political questions never enter into party politics in Ulster.

Since the major parties are not accountable to an electorate in Northern Ireland, they may continue to dispose of Ulster and her people as they see fit. Thus the Anglo-Irish Agreement, which in any other part of the United Kingdom would almost certainly have been subject to proper scrutiny by Opposition, if not a local referendum, can be passed overwhelmingly in Parliament, regardless of the wishes of the community it directly affects.

It is difficult to think of any other democracy which effectively excludes a section of the community from voting for or against a government purely on the basis of where they happen to reside. Were these same criteria to be applied on the basis of ethnicity, the outcry would be deafening.

Until the conspiracy of silence surrounding the parties' refusal to submit themselves for election in Northern Ireland is broken there can be no prospect of peace in the province.

Yours faithfully,
STUART NORTHOLT,
180 Elgar Lodge,
Fair Acres, Bromley, Kent.
January 3.

Racism defined

From the Chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality

Sir, I hesitate to interrupt Mr Butt's ruminations on the subject of race, verbal tyranny and so on (January 1), other than to allay his worries about an advertisement by Ealing for someone to tackle indirect racial discrimination, which the advertisement compresses into "indirect racism".

Mr Butt believes the term is so ill-defined that its meaning is something the official appointed will be able to "make up as he goes along." That is not so.

The concept of indirect discrimination is embodied in section 1 of the Race Relations Act 1976. The scope of that section has since been clarified in a series of decisions handed down by the courts; so, even if Mr Butt is puzzled by the whole business, there is no reason to suppose others will be equally at a loss.

Yours faithfully,
PETER NEWSAM, Chairman,
Commission for Racial Equality,
Eliot House,
10-12 Allington Street, SW1.
January 5.

"unto everyone that hath shall be given."

If Dr Hutchings fears that his daughter may draw the wrong conclusions from her success in playing the market, he could urge her to put her next hard-won earnings on a 50-1 outsider at Aintree. But then, it might win; and the lesson would be backfire.

Yours faithfully,
GILES HUNT,
St Catherine's Vicarage,
Freston Lane, Faversham, Kent.

between menacing superpowers. Mr Levin has not, I believe, sat on party executives, but he has been, long term, a very active spokesman for the American side. I would not do him the injustice of loading on to him personal moral responsibility for the operations of the Mafia, for the deceit of President Nixon, for the genocidal excesses of US intervention in Vietnam, or for the victims of the Western-supported regimes of Verwoerd, Pinochet and Moi.

I fear that *in quoque* argument may seem tasteless at a time when so many people feel intimately bereaved by Professor Kettle's death. But Mr Levin picked this fight.

Yours faithfully,
ANGUS CALDER,
15 Leven Terrace, Edinburgh.
January 7.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 12 1861

This account came in the form of a letter from an undergraduate and a friend, who were told by the guide that he had never made the ascent so early in the year. In a leading article the same day that winter is described as one of "uncommon severity". Helvellyn, in the Lake District, rises to 3,118ft.

A WINTER ASCENT OF HELVELLYN

... The guide told us that the first starter of a mile would probably be the most difficult part of our ascent; and most truly he spoke. We found the snow mostly drifted off the face of the crag, and the rock coated with hard, slippery ice. Up this we climbed, sending the guide first to stamp what steps he could. ... After several rests, and more than one long look at the safe valley beneath us, we at length reached the top of this the most difficult part of our ascent. At this crisis a snowstorm came on, and the driving snow and bitter east wind bit most shrewdly, and would have ripped our excursion in the bud if the road or rather slippery precipice back again had not driven us forward in desperation.

Soon the storm ceased, and as the heavens cleared, hill after hill rose to pure whiteness into the sunlight, and the glorious beauty of the scene fully repaid our labours. From time to time we flung ourselves down, hot and exhausted, and crunched the frozen rind as a child does a sweetmeat.

This sort of work continued for more than an hour, when the ascent became deeper and the snow more thin. With a long look at the view, which became grander every moment, up we went again, the guide always leading. The ascent was easy now, although steep. It lay over stones which, though loose in summer, were now icebound, and afforded firm footing for each step. Soon we were on the ridge of the Helvellyn range. The mountains of the Fatterdale side were opened up to us. Catbeddigan and the precipitous Striding and Swirral Edges, with the mullen tarn at their feet, lay near us, and, although the summit itself was enveloped in a slight mist, yet we knew we were close to it. We were both much fagged with the snow work, but with a last effort, did the final hill in fine style, and with a cheer flung ourselves at the foot of the little cairn that marks the summit.

Fortunately the mist which had clung so tenaciously to the top had just yielded to the midday sun, and the view was perfect. Even old Seawall, who hitherto had obstinately retained his misty nightcap, displayed unto us the white majesty of his snowy head — a fit boundary of the prospect. Skiddaw, the Solway, and Scotch hills, Morecambe Bay, all bathed in golden sunshine, lakes and tarns in profusion; snowy hills all scattered around us; Ingleborough in the far distance — all these lay outspread before us in the clear bright winter air. Such a sight we had never beheld before, and it was a thing to be remembered through life. ...

Development studies

From the Vice-Chancellor of the University of East Anglia

Sir, In *The Times* today (January 6) R. W. Johnson argues against this university's proposal to withdraw from undergraduate teaching in the School of Development Studies. I would emphasise that the document he refers to is for consultation and that no decision has yet been taken. Furthermore, detailed discussions within the university are continuing at present.

The plan contains two alternative proposals for development studies. The first is for protection of the school from the severe financial cuts this university faces. The second is to concentrate the efforts of the school into those areas where it is demonstrably strong — that is, in graduate teaching, research and overseas consultancy and short training courses.

Plans for the future of the university will be placed before senate and council later this term. Yours faithfully,
D. C. BURKE, Vice-Chancellor,
University of East Anglia,
Norwich, Norfolk.

From Mr Richard Sandbrook
Sir, The sad news that the University of East Anglia is considering whether to cut its School of Development Studies teaching programme is all too familiar.

At precisely the time that the multidisciplinary approach to development aid is being recognized in Whitehall, we find one of very few pioneers of the approach under threat. It is all the more ironic as the overheads the unit have recovered for the standards of the development assistance business.

This institute, like the UEA, is concerned with the quality of the \$20 billion spent annually on development aid. Surely the small community that struggles to ensure it is not wasted deserves to survive.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD SANDBROOK,
International Institute for Environment and Development,
3 Endsleigh Street, WC1.

Slightly off

From Mr M. E. N. Holmes

Sir, Dr Geoghegan (December 27) should be grateful for his family's gentle comment. At a sprightly friend's 70th birthday party recently his son marked the arrival of his father's eighth decade with the suggestion, "Pater is now in the springtime of his senility." Yours faithfully,
EDWARD HOLMES,
Primrose Cottage, Stoke Rivers,
Nr Barnstaple, North Devon.

28/1/87 15:50

Executive Editor
Kenneth FleetSTOCK MARKET
(Change on week)

FT 30 Share
1386.4 (+66.2)
FT-SE 100
1752.3 (+71.2)
Bargains
47658 (19640)
USM (Datastream)
135.35 (+4.23)
THE POUND
(Change on week)
US Dollar
1.4780 (-0.0140)
W German mark
2.8318 (-0.0251)
Trade-weighted
68.8 (-0.7)

New dawn
for dollar
could
be falseFrom Maxwell Newton
New York

The end-of-year sales, stimulated by the issuance of the new tax laws, have given an impression of a new dawn for the US economy which has been seized upon by every perennial optimist.

Yet, in truth, the fourth quarter has not turned out well. Even habitual Pollyannas, such as Maury Harris of Paine Webber, have downgraded their fourth-quarter real GNP estimates from 2 per cent to 1.5 per cent.

Yet Harris, like so many American analysts, expects better times in 1987, based on an improvement in the foreign trade balance, higher disposable incomes from the new tax laws and better rates of single-family home building.

This cheery outlook is difficult if not impossible to reconcile with the dismal record of American exports — the fact that export markets worldwide are contracting; that it has already been announced that there will be another huge trade deficit in December; that since the end of 1985 the cost of the average American home has risen 3½ times as fast as personal income and that US consumers will need every cent of additional disposable income simply to keep up the payments on their mounting debts.

Meanwhile, the Federal Reserve continues to flood the financial system with cash to finance the massive debt built up by consumers, corporations and government — debt that is both internally and externally owed, as Americans fight against any reduction in living standards which they ceased to earn 15 years ago.

Meanwhile, the central banks of Japan and Germany are exerting furious energy and massive amounts of money in an effort to prevent a fall of the dollar.

These banks, in co-operation with the New York Fed, are still hoping the dollar will continue to defy gravity so that Germany and Japan can keep on benefiting from the more favourable world trade conditions created by the existence of the gaping US trade and payments deficit.

In Washington, leadership in these crucial economic issues is virtually nonexistent. The only source is the Fed, now stacked with easy-money Reaganites who are discovering in their dismay that in today's world excess money growth does not translate into economic growth.

USM Review 18
Foreign Exch 18
Invest Trs 18
Co News 18

RESULTS

TODAY — Interims: Ellis & Everard, Kenyon Securities, Rand Mines Group, Ratners (Jewellers) and F H Tomkins. Finals: A G Barr, Fleming Claverhouse Investment Trust, London Scottish Finance Corporation and Robert H Lowe.

TOMORROW — Interims: Shield Group and Westpool Investment Trust. Finals: London & Clydeside Holdings, Newman Tunks Group, Sturge Holdings, Television South and Wheway.

WEDNESDAY — Interims: ASDA-MFI Group, Sidney C Banks, Bepak, Dixons Group, Howden Group, Parkfield Group, Stead & Simpson and Symonds Engineering.

Finals: Acatos & Hutchison, M & G Dual Trust, Southern Business Group, and TSB (Channel Islands).

THURSDAY — Interims: Jones Stroud Holdings. Finals: Oakwood Group, Rabcorn Investments and Trusthouse Forte.

FRIDAY — Interims: F Copson. Finals: Bell Brothers, Greenfriar Investment Trust and Jersey Electricity Co.

Morgans share deals listed

DTI hears of
£150m stake

By Lawrence Lever

Morgan Grenfell, the merchant banker, is understood to have had a £150 million uncommitted exposure on share purchases during the Guinness takeover bid. It was expected that any losses would be covered by adjustments to the bank's fees.

Guinness shares costing £14 million were bought and £136 million was spent on buying Distillers shares.

Department of Trade and Industry inspectors examining the takeover are believed to have been given new written evidence by Mr Roger Seelig who was forced to resign from the bank.

It is believed to contain a detailed account of the support operations mounted to give Guinness victory. These go far beyond the arrangement with Henry Ansbacher for the purchase of 2.15 million Guinness shares.

Mr Seelig's new evidence

may well have pointed to the involvement of other Morgan personnel in the Guinness price support operations. Morgan Grenfell has emphasized that any actions taken by Mr Seelig which breached either the Takeover Code or the law was done without authorization.

Nobody from Morgan Grenfell was available for comment yesterday.

One broader area of concern surrounds the method in which merchant banks are rewarded for buying the shares of a client making a bid. Although there is no bar to a bank buying shares in a takeover target when acting in concert with its client, such operations could fall foul of the law after the bid succeeds.

This is because the shares in the target company (Distillers in the case under investigation) are converted into shares of the firm making the bid. If

Guinness had given Morgan Grenfell financial assistance at this stage, it would almost certainly have breached the law.

In a separate part of the investigation, the inspectors are believed to be looking at the purchase by the Distillers pension fund of substantial quantities of Guinness shares after the bid was successful.

Although maintaining a high price for Guinness shares at that stage was not necessary in terms of the bid's success, it would have made it easier to unwind any operations to sustain the price which had been undertaken during the bid.

There is speculation that the Government will be forced by the result of the Guinness inquiry to launch separate investigations into a number of other recent takeover battles.

Quiet Glaswegian tipped
to take over at Guinness

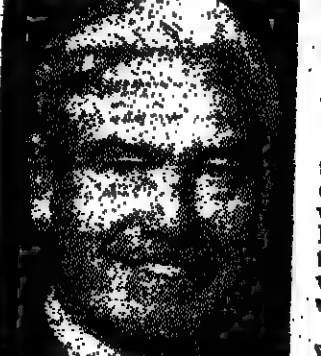
By Richard Lander

Sir Norman Macfarlane, the Guinness non-executive director, is tipped to succeed Mr Ernest Saunders as the company's chairman, comes to the job with a strong reputation for honesty, diligence and integrity — qualities that will be sorely needed to manage the brewing giant's biggest challenge.

An unfamiliar figure to the stockholders of the City of London, he is an influential and important figure in the financial and industrial circles of Edinburgh and Glasgow. Starting with £200 capital after the Second World War, he has built up his Macfarlane Group (Chalmers) into a listed company with annual sales in excess of £45 million.

He is also on the board of more than 30 companies, many of them with strong Scottish connections such as the Clydeside Bank, and has played a key part in the efforts of private enterprise to revitalize the recession-hit Glaswegian economy.

Sir Norman, 60, is chair-



man of the Glasgow Action Group, a group of businessmen, local government figures and academics which was set up in 1985 with the aim of attracting businesses and tourists to the city. He is keen that Glasgow should be cleaned up, both in terms of its environment and its reputation as an unpleasant place in which to live and work.

"He is a very able man and a very decent individual. He is a man who can rapidly identify what needs to be done and

get on and do it without offending people," said Mr Ewan Marwick, chief executive of Glasgow's chamber of commerce, who has worked closely with Sir Norman.

He added: "If anyone can sort out the unhappy mixture of Guinness and Distillers it would be someone like Sir Norman. He has the advantage that he is an independent, who has already proved his worth."

A tall, well-groomed man who is active in the Scottish Conservative Party, Sir Norman also has a strong attachment to the arts, a quality that was cited in his neighbourhood notice in 1983. He is a governor of the Glasgow School of Art, vice-chairman of the Scottish Ballet and was elected last year as a trustee of the National Galleries of Scotland.

Even as a patron of the arts, Sir Norman has demonstrated his desire to give practical help. "He buys paintings from living artists while others prefer to collect the works of those long dead whose stock is already rising," said a friend.

Argyll ready
to sue over
Distillers bid

By Our City Staff

The Argyll Group is readying itself to take legal action against Guinness over its bitterly contested £2.5 billion battle with the brewing group for control of Distillers, the Scottish whisky firm, if the current Department of Trade and Industry investigation reveals improper behaviour.

A claim from Argyll could total as much as £308 million. The company's unsuccessful bid cost it £34 million and its share price fell back after losing the battle.

There is speculation in the market that Guinness and Argyll might get together in the aftermath of the DTI inquiry. Argyll says it would not consider a bid but if an approach were made by Guinness it would consider it.

Meanwhile, Argyll will confirm its interest in buying the £600 million-plus 126-store Sainsbury supermarket chain on Thursday.

Quayle Munro denies
DTI interest in Bell's

By Judith Hantley

Quayle Munro, the Edinburgh-based firm of financial advisers, says it has had no communication from the Department of Trade and Industry about the Guinness takeover of Arthur Bell & Sons last year.

The firm advises Mr Peter Tyrie, a former director of Bell's and it issued a statement last night in response to a newspaper report on the Bell takeover, now rumoured to be included in the DTI inquiry into Guinness.

Quayle Munro says that an earlier investigation into the bid last year resulted in confirmation that the Takeover Panel's code had been complied with.

Mr Tyrie took an independent stance against the Bell's board in accepting Guinness' improved offer. Quayle Munro is adamant that his

decision was only made after Mr Tyrie had spoken with Lord Spens, Bell's financial adviser at Henry Ansbacher, the merchant bank and after Mr Raymond Miguel, the Bell's chairman, who issued a statement rejecting the improved offer from Guinness.

The firm also says that Mr Tyrie, now managing director of Mandarin Oriental Hotels owned by Hongkong Land, was carrying out his duty as a director and was acting in the interests of Bell's shareholders and the Gleneagles Hotel group which he built up. Quayle Munro says Mr Tyrie had previously told his fellow Bell's directors of the great attractions of the Guinness offer. It denies that there was any prior arrangement to pay Mr Tyrie's costs and fees incurred in his taking an independent stance.

Jaguar roars to \$1bn US record

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

North American motorists spent more than \$1 billion (£680 million) for the first time last year buying British-built Jaguar cars.

The new record, the latest in a string of successes announced by the company, follows spectacular sales increases of 20 per cent in the US and 55 per cent in Canada. Canadians bought 2,032 Jaguars in 1986 compared with 1,315 the previous year, while sales in the US totalled 24,464.

The Midlands car company, led by Sir John Egan, saw its world sales increase by 9 per cent last year, to 40,971 from

today a production and sales target of 47,000 had been set for 1987 — a 15 per cent increase. The company is banking on the success of its new XJ40 model which is launched in the US market in March and goes on sale there in May.

Last year's sales also included 7,579 in Britain, 4,333 in Continental Europe and 2,563 in the rest of the world. In the US market, three times more important to Jaguar than its home market, the

company imposed three price increases last year, totalling about 10 per cent. But with Jaguars selling for between \$38,000 (£25,850) and \$42,000 (£29,166) the company claims they are cheaper than comparable Mercedes or BMW models.

In Britain, Jaguar's sales last year accounted for just 0.4 per cent of the total new car market. It sold 8,049 to win 0.44 per cent, but says that the 1986 figure was affected by the launch of the XJ40.



37,732 in 1985. Production was up 8 per cent. A Jaguar spokesman said



Tom MacKie: drumming up business among 135 Scottish bands by renovating instruments

Accolades for self-helpers

By Our Industrial Correspondent

The Confederation of British Industry, always ready to bang the drum for self-help and free enterprise, today gives accolades to 14 young people, some physically handicapped, who have established thriving businesses in the face of redundancy and unemployment.

In a report on Young British Success, the employers' group has brought together a band of young people whose businesses, it says, are as diverse as they are innovative.

Their chosen activities range from renovating the regalia for marching bands, manufacturing art nouveau clocks, embroidering greeting

cards and producing slides for lectures. Among the entrepreneurs discovered by the CBI is Mr David Wilkins, aged 25, who established his 1st National Cleaning Company when he discovered that his employers were going out of business. He put himself on a business course and then hired a carpet-cleaning machine.

He received a youth business initiative award which he used to buy a van. His company, based in Vauxhall, south London, now has 19 staff and a turnover in excess of £40,000.

Another success is partially-sighted Mr Simon Baldwin, aged 22, who started his business with an Enterprise Allowance Scheme grant. He began by making letter holders and table-top sculpture and now produces replicas of firearms in wood.

Two unemployed members of the Black Skull Fine Band in Glasgow, Mr Andrew McAdam, aged 25, and Mr Tom MacKie, aged 24, saw a gap in the market for the renovation of instruments used by the 135 bands in the Glasgow area.

They began by re-covering drums and repairing flutes and accordions and their firm now sells new uniforms and repairs old ones with the help of a Belfast tailoring company.

Consumption in Britain is still minimal compared with the continent. A survey last year by Euromonitor, the market research organization, showed that Britons drank 1.3 litres per head in 1984 compared with 51.5 litres in West Germany and 47.6 litres in France.

PPC team
looks at
currenciesBy David Smith
Economics Correspondent

The independent Public Policy Centre, which last year recommended full sterling membership of the European Monetary System, is setting up a high-level committee to examine wider aspects of currency co-operation.

The 13-man committee, under Lord Croom, will report this year. It will include Count Otto Lambsdorff, former Federal Minister of Economics in Germany, Mr Robert Roosa, chairman of the Brookings Institution, Professor John Williamson, of the Institute for International Economics and Mr Hideo Suzuki, chairman of Nomura International Securities.

The committee's terms of reference are "to consider the desirability of, and the scope for, greater exchange rate co-ordination and how far this requires greater co-ordination of economic policies."

In addition the committee will seek to "define rules under which a workable regime of exchange rate co-ordination would need to operate."

Big holiday
operators
tighten grip

Independent market research figures show that the three biggest package tour operators are tightening their grip on the market.

Early bookings of holidays for this summer show that at the end of November (the latest figures available), International Thomson had a market share of 44.3 per cent, International Leisure Group 19.4 per cent and Horizon 11 per cent.

Mr Paul Brett, managing director of Thomson Holidays, said the big companies tend to sell well early on. Even though he expected their market share to drift down, he did not think the rankings would change significantly. This means that the three biggest groups will control 70 per cent of the market for inclusive air tours this year. This is nearly double their market share in 1981. More than 8 million holidays are expected to be sold this summer, compared with nearly 5 million in 1981.

New oil price 'may not stick'

By Teresa Poole, Business Correspondent

Oil consumption by Western industrialized countries will increase only modestly this year, according to forecasts published today by the International Energy Agency, which indicates that Opec is likely to face growing difficulties in maintaining higher oil prices.

In its latest monthly report, the IEA projects that OECD consumption in the first three quarters of 1987 will be

agreement on quotas was for Opec production of 15.8 million barrels a day, Iraq's disregard for its limit and the Neutral Zone production means that Opec output will probably be nearer 16.5 million barrels a day.

Since early December oil prices have risen by about \$4 a barrel in anticipation of a tighter market following the agreement on quotas.

around 1.5 per cent higher. In 1986 the growth was about 2.5 per cent, boosted by high levels of consumer stockpiling in the middle of the year and higher fuel oil deliveries when prices were low.

Forecasts by the Paris-based research group for the second quarter of this year imply that demand for Opec oil will be around 16.1 million barrels a day. Although last month's

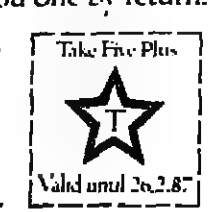
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Ch 11/12/87

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates	Market rates	1 month	3 months
January 9	January 9	1.4775-1.4785	1.78-1.79pm
New York 1.4775-1.4785	January 9	0.56-0.57pm	1.43-1.44pm
London 2.0185-2.0195	January 9	1.3775-1.3785	1.17-1.18pm
Brussels 58.92-59.10	January 9	1.3775-1.3785	1.17-1.18pm
Frankfurt 10.7100-10.7334	January 9	1.3775-1.3785	1.17-1.18pm
Dubai 1.0483-1.0535	January 9	1.3775-1.3785	1.17-1.18pm
Frankfurt 2.0185-2.0195	January 9	1.3775-1.3785	1.17-1.18pm
London 2.0185-2.0195	January 9	1.3775-1.3785	1.17-1.18pm
Madrid 194.50-195.22	January 9	1.3775-1.3785	1.17-1.18pm
Milan 198.75-201.53	January 9	1.3775-1.3785	1.17-1.18pm
Oslo 10.8383-10.8759	January 9	1.3775-1.3785	1.17-1.18pm
Paris 9.4071-9.4491	January 9	1.3775-1.3785	1.17-1.18pm
Stockholm 9.9544-9.9877	January 9	1.3775-1.3785	1.17-1.18pm
Tokyo 222.82-223.50	January 9	1.3775-1.3785	1.17-1.18pm
Vienna 19.50-20.04	January 9	1.3775-1.3785	1.17-1.18pm
Zurich 2.3650-2.3800	January 9	1.3775-1.3785	1.17-1.18pm

Sterling rates compared with 1975 base rates at 68.5 (day's range 68.5-68.5)

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral	1.6598-1.6700	Ireland	1.4020-1.4080
Australia dollar	2.2585-2.2590	Italy	1.5900-1.5910
Bahian dollar	1.5530-1.5570	Japan	2.0020-2.0030
Brazil cruzeiro	22.1500-22.2800	Netherlands	0.6675-0.6680
Cyprus pound	0.7350-0.7450	Denmark	1.3700-1.3707
East German mark	1.6500-1.6510	Sweden	6.7000-6.7010
Greece drachma	201.8000-202.80	Norway	7.3575-7.3625
Hong Kong dollar	11.4800-11.4824	West Germany	7.2700-7.2750
India rupee	19.85-19.85	France	16.75-16.75
Iran riyal	1.4375-1.4375	Switzerland	1.6070-1.6080
Israeli sheqel	0.2500-0.2500	Belgium	2.1545-2.1555
Malaysian dollar	0.2500-0.2500	Spain	16.75-16.75
Mexico peso	134.00-135.00	Italy	1.5900-1.5910
New Zealand dollar	2.7450-2.7500	Belgium (Comm)	1.3700-1.3707
Saudi Arabia riyal	1.5000-1.5000	Hong Kong	7.3575-7.3625
Singapore dollar	1.3145-1.3182	Portugal	145.70-145.00
South African rand	3.1450-3.1452	Austria	13.40-13.51
U.S. dollar	1.5670-1.5670		

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank, HOPEX and Ebsel.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Base Rates %	EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %
Overnight 11% 11%	1 month 6% 6%
3 month 10% 10%	3 month 6% 6%
6 month 10% 10%	6 month 6% 6%
9 month 10% 10%	9 month 6% 6%
12 month 10% 10%	12 month 6% 6%

Treasury Bills (Discount %)	1 month 11% 11%	3 month 11% 11%
2 month 10% 10%	6 month 11% 11%	9 month 11% 11%
3 month 10% 10%	12 month 11% 11%	
Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)	1 month 11% 11%	3 month 11% 11%
2 month 10% 10%	6 month 11% 11%	9 month 11% 11%
3 month 10% 10%	12 month 11% 11%	

Treasury Bills (Discount %)	1 month 11% 11%	3 month 11% 11%
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Local Authority Deposits (%)	1 month 10% 10%	3 month 10% 10%
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12 month 10% 10%		

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Still alive after Big Bang and patient never looked better

By Michael Clark and Carol Leonard

Reports of the death of the Unlisted Securities Market in the wake of Big Bang have been greatly exaggerated. In fact, the corpse is now looking in better health than at any time in its six-year history and has clearly benefited from the City's financial revolution.

To the surprise of many prophets, it out-performed the main market on all indices quite dramatically during the last three months of 1986. The number of market-makers in USM stocks has also risen sharply, making it easier to deal and prompting investors to take a much more active interest. Against this background turnover has risen to record levels.

According to official Stock Exchange figures, turnover rose from 88,000 bargains in the third quarter of last year to a record 113,000 in the final leg.

The total value of deals done also increased dramatically, from £696 million to more than £840 million.

This will not have gone unnoticed by people like Mr Brian Winterlood, director of market-making at the Nat West Investment Bank. Nicknamed "Mr USM" by other dealers in the market, Mr Winterlood has done more to promote the second-tier market than anyone else in the City.

He believes that the USM has gone some way to fulfilling a much-needed service to emerging companies in need of extra cash to expand and unable to turn to the banks for help.

"The need to raise capital and to capitalise small busi-

nesses has been a problem that has only really been addressed in Britain, outside the usual banking facilities, over the past few years," he says.

Although companies can now choose between the USM, the over-the-counter market or a Business Expansion Scheme to raise funds, the City appears only to have scratched the surface in offering support to budding entrepreneurs, despite government encouragement.

Mr Winterlood is convinced that the secondary market still has a big role to play and could, eventually, become as big as the O-T-C market in America.

"All three legs will play an enormous part in the future and the hope is that what will evolve will be the formation of a major secondary market as they have in the USA," he adds in the forward of an

important review of the USM recently published by ICC Business Publications and entitled *USM Company Performance*.

Mr Geoffrey Douglas, the USM specialist at Hoare Govett, the broker, agrees. "The future of the USM looks very encouraging. Before Big

Bang a lot of people kept saying that liquidity would dry up," he says, "it just shows that they did not understand how smaller companies work."

He gives a warning that the change in flotation rules, introduced with Big Bang, have reduced the costs incurred by a flotation on the main market and may result in a larger number of companies with a five-year record, who would previously have opted for the USM, choosing the main market instead.

"But to counter that factor I think the number of companies coming to the USM from private hands, management buy-outs, Business Expansion Schemes, will carry on increasing," he says.

The total number of companies achieving a USM listing in 1986 reached 90, with a record 30 companies applying during the last quarter.

Mr Douglas feels it is encouraging that the traditional premium rating enjoyed by USM stocks, compared with those on the main market, is being eroded. "USM stocks were always more expensive. Now they are starting to look like a good buy."

He estimates that the main stock market will demonstrate 15 per cent earnings growth on average during 1987, bringing its multiple down from 12 to about 10.5.

According to his own calculations, the USM was out at a historic p/e of 15 at the end of last year.

"I would guess that it is on a prospective p/e for 1987 of about 11 or 12, bringing it much more in line with the main market," he adds.

Mr Paul Biss, its chairman, says he is inviting stock-brokers to visit the company. It is a remedy which might work. Certainly a share to watch.

While it achieved a turnover of £8.4 million in 1985 and is expected to have raised that to almost £10 million for 1986, its market capitalisation has fallen by 38 per cent from £6.5 million last May to just £4 million at present.

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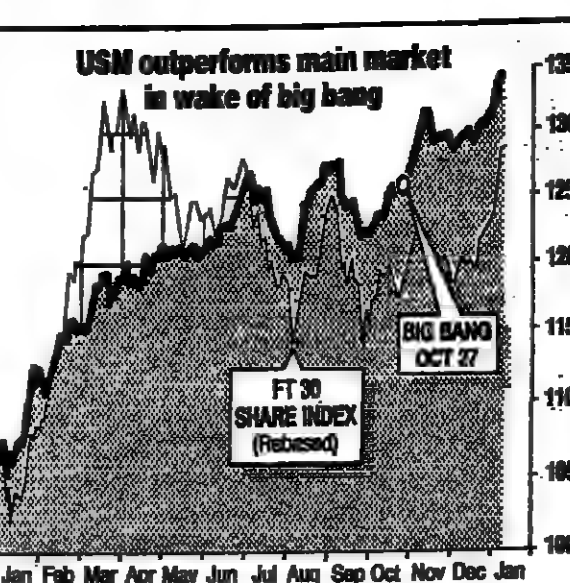
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USM REVIEW

USM outperforms main market in wake of big bang



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ANALYSIS

Holiday bookings climb but smaller firms face squeeze

The holiday brochures for the summer are in the travel agents' shops and in the newspapers at its peak. The winter days are short, the temperature outside has plummeted and we turn with relief and pleasurable anticipation to planning summer holidays.

In the depths of a British winter, we might feel in strong need of a holiday but the economists do not classify holidays among life's necessities. However, they come high on the list of discretionary purchases, being second only to cars.

Demand for holidays depends in the first instance on consumer spending and disposable incomes, where the outlook is good. Also important are exchange rates and brochure prices.

Consumer spending in 1987 is forecast to be up by more than 3.5 per cent — not as buoyant as last year when it rose by 5 per cent, but still healthy.

Sterling, on the other hand, is expected to remain weak against many European currencies, although little change is expected in the currencies of the main holiday destinations.

Exchange rates also influence brochure prices, the third key factor when it comes to choosing a holiday. Many tour operators claim that their average brochure prices for 1987 holidays are unchanged compared with last year.

However, many brochures include a higher proportion of self-catering villas and apartment holidays in the mix. Not only are these holidays cheaper but their prices are up by under 5 per cent and this is where the demand for 1987 holidays has been strongest so far. In contrast, holidays in three and four star hotels have risen by more than 10 per cent.

Taking these factors into account, demand next year should increase by between 5 per cent and 10 per cent. But one of the problems facing students of the holiday business is that the companies and their trade organizations produce statistics like confetti, few of which can withstand close scrutiny.

Most are agreed that a good pattern of early booking is being observed this year. An



Paul Brett: expecting fall off in demand later in season — but still taking the lion's share

Consumer is still winning

Inclusive Air Tours, more commonly known as packaged holidays, is one of the most competitive parts of the holiday business. The market is dominated by three main operators, International Thomson Organisation (Thomson), International Leisure Group (ILG) and Horizon Holidays (Horizon).

This year, the dominance of these three companies will increase and they are expected to supply 70 per cent of the market compared with 57 per cent in 1985.

Independent audit of 1987 sales so far show that at the end of November they were 57 per cent of the previous year for Britain as a whole. Of this, Thomson had a 44 per cent share, International Leisure 19 per cent and Horizon 11 per cent.

The big companies tend to sell well early on and Mr Paul Brett, managing director of Thomson Holidays, expects his market share to drop as the season progresses. Nevertheless, he still expects Thomson to capture 40 per cent.

Likewise, Horizon expects to take 10 per cent.

The industry as a whole can expect to sell about 8.5 million

The economies of scale available to the larger operators gives them such a cost advantage that it becomes harder and harder for the small companies to compete unless they specialize.

And the high cost of entry into the business means that a competitor, once squeezed out, is unlikely to be replaced.

Perhaps surprisingly, this concentration in the market has not disadvantaged the consumer. Rather, the holidaymaker has on the whole benefited from the per-

sonal pricing battles for market share by being able to buy cheaper holidays. Mr Paul Brett, managing director of Thomson Holidays and Skytours, reckons that due to recent price wars, 1987 brochure prices are still below 1985 prices in real terms and in some cases may be as low as 1984 prices.

Meanwhile, for those in work, salaries have risen faster than inflation, making the cost of the annual holiday a dwindling proportion of disposable incomes.

holidays compared with 7.7 million last summer but the growing market share of the bigger companies, who expect to supply 70 per cent, implies a further squeeze on the smaller companies.

The industry's obsession with market share is a reflection of the importance of size to profitability. Many of the risks can be reduced or eliminated. Tour operators hedge the bulk of their currency exposure, and currency surcharges are now a thing of the past. Higher oil prices could feed through to higher fuel prices but most companies can impose fuel

surcharges up to a maximum of £10.

The tour operator must grow big or specialize. High volumes reduce overheads per holiday and increase an operator's ability to buy effectively, whether it be aircraft seats or hotel beds.

The tour operators have even been able to protect themselves from the worst effects of uncertain volumes by building flexibility into their cost structures. Chartered planes can be cancelled to some extent, while hotels are paid for as used.

But volumes at the margin will remain uncertain until the

last minute. It is this which determines how much discounting will need to be done in the spring to sell the last few holidays that are vital to achieve high load factors, the final determinant of profitability.

Airline seats are the ultimate wasting asset and it is better to sell a seat for £20 than to leave it empty.

Meanwhile, the brave analyst must cut his way through the plethora of conflicting statistics and come up with profits forecasts for the leading companies. The big three have all contrived to have differing year ends, making comparisons even more difficult.

Thomson, the biggest and most successful of the tour operators is part of the International Thomson Organisation.

Stephen Turner of Wood Mackenzie, the stockbroker, is looking for an operating profit of £45 million from the group's holiday division for the year to December, 1987.

Total group net income is forecast to be £112 million and the shares are on a prospective multiple of 17.7.

Lindsay Russell of Greenwell Montagu, the stockbroker, is looking for £42 million pretax from Horizon for the year to October, 1987. The prospective multiple of more than 25 owes more to bid hopes than to any fundamentals.

She forecasts also that International Leisure Group will make £13.8 million for the year to March, 1987, before tax and aircraft sales and £16.5 million in the following year. The prospective multiples for both years are just over 6.

Compared with highly-rated Thomson and over-priced Horizon, International Leisure looks cheap. But the independently audited figures to the end of November show that ILG may have lost market share in the early bookings.

There is plenty of time to recover but the market has been disappointed in ILG's results before now and the shares are unlikely to find friends at this stage.

Carol Ferguson

COMMENT

Why City must seize the lead on takeovers

It is hardly surprising that the Labour opposition has decided to seize on the current crop of scandals, investigations and revelations of dirty tricks in the securities markets to mount a general attack on the City. It is fertile ground. Suspicion of finance is a reliable popular cause. The City's current conspicuous affluence and arrogance is a sitting target, especially if it can be suggested that the champagne and Porsches are bought at the expense of ordinary people and industry — or by illegitimate means.

Labour threatens to substitute a fully statutory regime of regulation for the supervised self-regulation being set up under the Financial Services Act. The main practical consequence would be to transfer the cost to taxpayers. Far worse would be to permit the growth of a climate of suspicion at home and abroad, which would pose a genuine threat to a successful competitive group of industries. Either way, the City needs to act quickly.

Virtually all the important present scandals and criticism hitting the City stem from the Waikiki wave of takeover bids that the securities industry has ridden so profitably over the past two years. Takeover mania, while just the surf on a sea of mundane, useful and honourably provided services, has come to dominate the City's image.

Nor is this the first time that a takeover wave has finally crashed over the City. It also produced the fever of speculation that led to the 1974 secondary banking crisis. The drawbacks of takeover bids only come into the ascendant when individual moves to replace unsuccessful managements, achieve promising new combinations or restructure industries turn into a universal trend based on ephemeral financial conditions.

After a period of essential industrial restructuring to which mergers have vitally contributed, the drawbacks to current priorities are now much in evidence.

A climate of takeover bids is in part responsible for the shortage of research into new products in industry. The most telling warnings in last week's House of Lords committee report on public support for research were addressed to the shortcomings of industry. It recommended obliging companies to report research spending in their accounts. The threat of takeovers deters potential victims from undertaking costly long-term research, by imposing the City's short-term view on industry. But the case of buying up the benefits of other companies' research spending probably

has a much bigger effect on the aggressive companies, which need not risk their own money.

Takeovers can be a substitute for investment that involves risk and takes time. It is much easier to boost short-term profits and stock market ratings by cutting overheads to the bone and maximizing short-term cash flow, then buying up other companies' investment on the cheap. Individual mergers can boost investment by marrying financial and managerial strength with market opportunity. Over-reliance on takeovers deters investment.

Takeovers of large, provincially-based companies, over a long period, have greatly exacerbated the problems of the big regional conurbations by undermining business and professional services there and by removing decision-making top management more likely to expand locally.

Jobs can be lost without improving efficiency or competitiveness by some kinds of takeover. The report of Sir Austin Bide's Occupations Study Group last summer particularly focused on horizontal mergers that led to closure of overlapping branches or factories, and on debt-financed takeovers, which put pressure on new owners to close less profitable businesses quickly to recoup expensive borrowings or takeover premiums.

Such arguments are viewed with great scepticism among managers of the City's big investing institutions, who have found takeovers the prime solution to their frustrations with inefficient and incompetently run companies. But the City's own priorities point to some moratorium on takeovers for the time being, not least to allow time for a thoroughgoing reappraisal of the City Takeover Panel and its takeover code. This has emerged as the weakest link in the City's system of self-regulation under the intense pressure of the recent wave of activity. And Labour wants complete discretionary control of takeovers through the Monopolies Commission.

In the present climate, it would be extremely short-sighted for City institutions to support BTR's takeover of Pilkington, which exhibits several of the drawbacks. More than that, it would be timely for some of the biggest institutions to get together, as they did in the stock market crisis 12 years ago, to act collectively. A withdrawal of underwriting support for takeovers for the time being would be preferable to the official intervention which, in some form or other, has become the likely alternative.

Graham Searjeant
Financial Editor

GILT-EDGED

General election casts shadow over indexed-linked prospects

According to the Chinese calendar, the year just beginning is the year of the Dog. For fiscalists, they suspect, index-linked gilts which have been the bane of many a fund manager's life will come good.

How well index-linked gilts perform depends on two questions: what happens to the rate of inflation, and what happens to real yields? But attention usually focuses on the former. Indexed gilts are supposed to be a "buy" if you think inflation is going to take off, a "sell" if you don't.

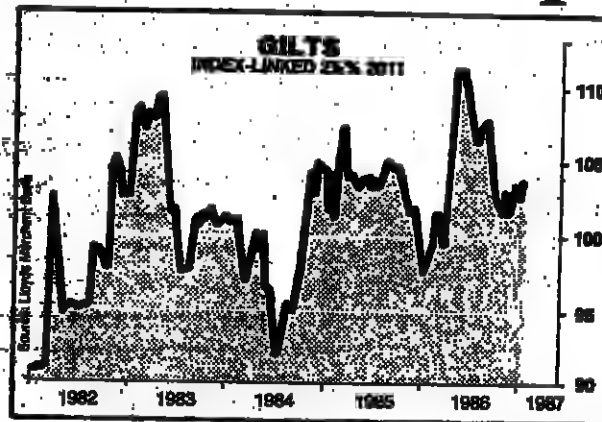
This merely scratches the surface of the issue. For if index-linked gilts go up as a result of inflation, holders will do well in nominal terms, but they will not register any improvement in real terms. Whether index-linked gilts go up as a result of inflation, holders will do well in nominal terms, but they will not register any improvement in real terms.

When index-linked gilts are, indeed, a good buy in these circumstances depends on how well other investments are likely to perform in these same circumstances, and how much freedom investors have to switch between investments, and to hold cash.

So where do index-linked stand in 1987? There can be no shirking the political issue. Whatever happens in the real economy, the election is a watershed for financial markets.

Suppose this Government continues in office. To my mind the economic fundamentals indicate strong growth, inflation rising to about 4½ per cent, and a balance of payments deficit of about £2 billion. Interest rates could be forced up to defend sterling in the short-term but following a Conservative victory at the polls and EMS entry they could come down with a thump. Inflation would peak in 1988, and would subside thereafter.

The key development for index-linked would be the fall in interest rates, which would undoubtedly lead to a major fall in gilt yields. But how much of this would represent a fall in inflationary expectations and how much a fall in real yields? To the extent it was the former index-linked



would do badly in relative terms and might actually fall absolutely (as inflation protection was valued less highly and the real yield differential fell). Certainly index-linked gilts seemed initially to suffer from Mrs Thatcher's re-election in 1983.

If, on the other hand, it were the real yield which fell then index-linked would do very well. For the greater volatility of index-linked would provide larger capital gains than for comparable conventional gilts.

On a 1 per cent fall in yields, for instance, 2½ per cent index-linked 2013 would show a capital gain of just over 21 per cent, compared with just under 10 per cent for the conventional Exchequer 12 per cent 2013/17. And for the longer indexed stocks the gain would be even greater. The 2024s would rise by more than 26 per cent.

In practice, I suspect something of both would happen, with a real possibility that index-linked would suffer absolutely, and a strong probability that they would do very badly in relative terms. And not only against conventional gilts. The lifting of political uncertainty and sharply lower interest rates would surely boost equities substantially.

But what about the outcome which much of the gilt market regards as unthinkable, namely a Labour government? In the market's view, rightly or wrongly, inflation would turn out to be higher. The merest whiff of a Labour victory and the conventional gilt and equity markets would suffer, so index-linked would probably

score well in relative terms. They might also benefit from a sharp increase in the real yield differential as the value attached to inflation protection increased. If so, they could register good gains in absolute terms.

On the other hand, the real yields basis of the market might well be under upward pressure from increased uncertainty about the policy framework, and specific concern about having to finance a substantially increased PSBR. And in due course, with the economy driven along by expansionary fiscal policy and the exchange rate under pressure, with or without the exchange control scheme, a Labour government might have to introduce sharply higher short-term interest rates, with consequences for gilt yields.

Then consider the supply situation. If this argument is correct, nominal yields on gilts could be forced up several percentage points under Labour. Say they reached 14 per cent. If real yields on index-linked gilts even remained at 3½ per cent, this would imply that the market expected somewhere near 10 per cent inflation.

Whatever the reality, an incoming Labour government would refuse to believe that its policies would really lead to 10 per cent inflation. It would be convinced that the market was exacting too much protection against future inflation. Consequently it would seem sensible and economic to bias the gilt funding programme towards index-linked.

And indexed gilts would also confer PSBR advantages. There is a substantial difference between financing

coupons at 2 per cent or 2½ per cent, and 14 per cent. The implied revaluation of the capital redemption liability, which increases continuously on indexed gilts as inflation proceeds, is buried deep in the public accounts.

These two arguments together would surely constitute a powerful incentive for a Labour government to rely heavily on indexed gilts. Labour would probably need a minimum of an extra £10 billion per year of gilt finance. The result is that supply considerations may mean that the real yield differential would not rise much under Labour, if at all. And since the real yield basis of the market may be higher, the real yield on indexed gilts is by no means certain to be lower.

So, compared to today's valuations at least, indexed gilts, probably do not offer the chance of substantial real capital gains.

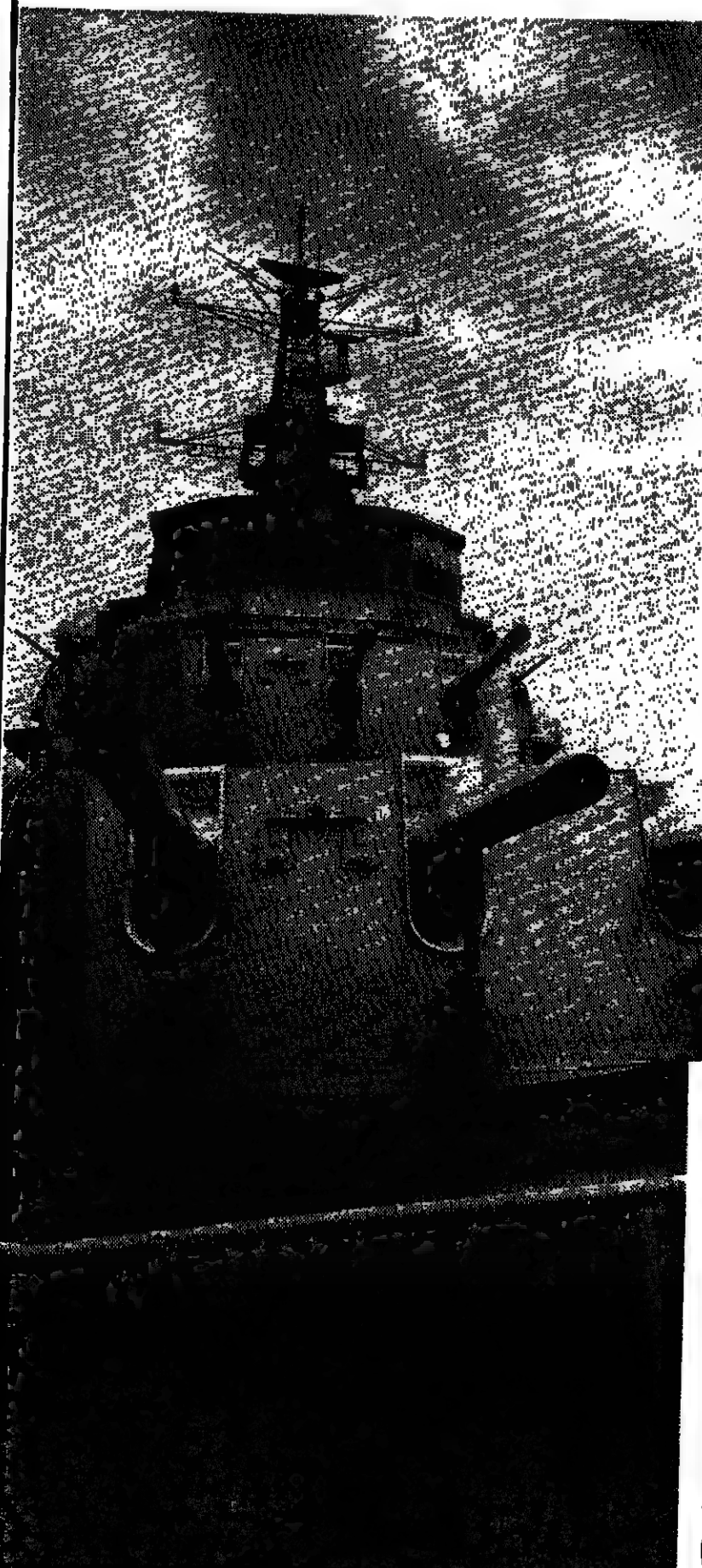
The upshot is that they are a defensive sort of investment — unlikely to do as well as other instruments if the Tories win but likely to offer some protection if they lose. Nevertheless if you fear a Labour victory the best short-term answer is probably cash, (to be profitably invested later, perhaps in equities), or if you feel the exchange control scheme will either fail, or simply fail to be introduced, overseas investments.

Can index-linked ever offer very substantial real capital gains? The most favourable circumstances would be a shift, on a world scale, away from the use of interest rates for inflation control, without a collapse of inflation itself. An international initiative to boost growth and lower unemployment through monetary, but not fiscal, means could do the trick; alternatively major reductions in the US budget deficit, necessitating substantial cuts in US interest rates to offset the deflationary effects, and prompting interest rate cuts worldwide.

But as far as prospects for 1987 are concerned, if you believe that, you will believe anything.

Roger Bootle

The writer is a director and chief economist of Lloyds Merchant Bank.



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1,200	Star & N.Y.A.	148	+10	10.8
8,200	Security & Veterans	148	+10	10.8
1,200	Empire	148	+10	10.8
8,700	Campani	114	+7	8.8
1,200	Greco	114	+7	8.8
1,200	Palmer	114	+7	8.8
1,200	Frederick	114	+7	8.8
1,200	Harbinger Dreams	114	+7	8.8
1,200	Horizon Trust	114	+7	8.8
1,200	Lebanon	114	+7	8.8
1,200	Union's Bank	114	+7	8.8
1,200	Law Int	114	+7	8.8
1,200	Mitnick Leases	114	+7	8.8
1,200	4000	114	+7	8.8
1,200	Peasemans	114	+7	8.8
1,200	United	114	+7	8.8
8,710	Flye Leases	114	+7	8.8
1,200	Lebanon	114	+7	8.8

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69.0m	White Creek	258	+17	
14.0m	Whites	258	+17	178
14.0m	Zambia Copper	11 1/2	+1	
8,933,000	Zampden	84	+10	8.7

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT				
7,200,000	AC	360	+28	
284.5m	AE	269	+18	16.78
5,688,000	Alcanadens	15	+1	
19.3m	Appl	177	+6	8.66
62.7m	Armstrong	132	+3	3.9
56.2m	BSS	145	+1	1.7
19.4m	Bentley (CO)	146	+2	5.9
1,340,2m	Br Aerospace	538	+20	22.4
148.4m	Br Car Actions	6	+16	6.4
9,10m	Carlson	281	+2	1.6
23.2m	Chase (UK)	216	+1	5.7
26.1m	Davis (Nuclear)	142	+1	6.4

3,762,000	ERF	01	-2	1.1
256.1m	Ford	309	-2	1.0
179.1m	Fit Group	213	+22	7.9
101.2m	Geac (Frank G)	121	+47	4.3
91.5m	General Motor	255	+48	35.0
9,291.0m	General Leverage	88	-	-
61.5m	Hercules	85	+1	2.8
5,997.7m	Honda Motor	387	-	3.9
5,997.7m	Imperial	387	+3	2.2
5,415.0m	Jeep	387	+2	2.2
86.2m	Jeep	112	+2	6.4
86.2m	Kraft-Fr	194	+9	2.7
249.9m	Lac	254	+10	15.1
249.9m	Lockhart	213	+3	7.3
604.4m	Lux	492	+13	19.6
23.0m	Perry go	153	+11	6.4
11.0m	Pleasant (G)	68	+3	4.3
8,890.0m	Quint (H)	100	+3	4.3
1,890.0m	Rover	45	-	-
14.3m	Saps	88	-1	3.1
67.2m	Woodland	91	-2	-
15.2m	Woodward (Korn)	122	+5	1.6

11.0m Accord	168	+2	4.2
18.5m Asahi Shimbun	245	+4	8.6
543.0m Asahi Newspaper	499	-6	8.8
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30.0m Asahi	798	...	4.9
14.0m Asahi (Print)	470	...	11.4
16.0m Do A	333	...	11.4
170.0m Do A	167	...	3.4
7,000.0m Do A	310	...	20.0
7,000.0m Do A	280	-2	12.5
7.7m Independent	345	...	12.0
1,161.0m Do A	577	+5	14.0
1,161.0m Do A	777	...	12.9
223.0m Do A	506	...	10.4
19.3m Do A	161	-3	6.0

OIL			
278.46	Amoco	122	+2 ..
57.08	Avon Energy	36	+0 ..
	Atlantic Resources	31	+3 ..
	Am Oil & Gas	110
6,663.00	BGM	16 ¹
50.36	Br Bromen	453	+20 30.3
82.53	Br Telechem	16	+0 ..
832.79	Engr	177	+7 9.0
5,625.00	Byrson	84
70.61	Calumet	10	+0 18.2
113.18	Cadillac Capital	66	+0 9.3
31.16	Calmar	37	+0 7.1
80.25	Conoco	167	+0 1.1
80.25	Cody	34	+0 7.3
416.26	Enterprise	36	+10 12.1
1,887.00	Exxon	25
80.58	Globe N Reg	300

5,818,000	Macys (Hugob)	115		8.7
5,463,000	Norton	27	+3	6.0
5,394,000	Pandrol 'A'	125	+1	8.8
4,618,000	Pandrol 'B'	126	+1 1/2	7.5
4,558,000	SEET	125		2.5
12.5m	Solera	128	+4	3.5
70.4m	Strider	143	+6	7.4
1,876,000	Swatchco (F)	143		3.9
4,257,000	Standard 'A'	34 1/2		
5,171,000	Tenured Jersey	135		8.8
14.5m	Tomsonors	245	+4	5.5
195.5m	Topol	111 1/2	+1 1/2	8.7
12.1m	Vorlage	250		10.5

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● Ex dividend a Ex att b Forecast dividend c
payment passed f Price at suspension g Divid-
yield exclude a special payment h Pre-merger i
Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex
share split t Tax-free .. No significant d

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BTR hits at 'price support'

By Richard Lander

Sir Owen Green, chairman of BTR, has claimed that associates of the Pilkington group have spent more than £55 million supporting the glass company's shares since its conglomerate formally announced its £1.1 billion bid on November 20.

In a letter to shareholders of Pilkington, Sir Owen details the alleged price-support scheme which involved 8.36 million shares being bought between December 10 and 23 at prices between 618p and 660p.

Pilkington shares closed last week at 620p, comfortably higher than the value of the BTR offer.

Sir Owen said he was not suggesting any impropriety behind the share buying but was seeking to find out why it was being done.

The letter to shareholders also attempted to rebut criticism voiced by Pilkington's supporters that BTR lacked commitment to research and development and was basically interested only in short-term profits.

In an eloquently-phrased argument, Sir Owen said such criticisms were "based on the outmoded mechanistic philosophy which has dominated much of Western thought... we at BTR have over many years subscribed to and lived by the general system theory."

"It's mistaken to inflate R&D to an end in itself - rather, it must be more closely associated with the business itself."

Yule expects profits to edge ahead

By Our City Staff

Yule Catto, the specialist chemicals, building products and plantations group which is making a £17.3-million contested bid for Barrow, Hepburn, has estimated its 1986 profits at £10.7-million, only slightly better than the £10.4-million recorded in 1985.

The figures, contained in a letter to Barrow shareholders, include higher profits from the domestic industrial division but have been weighed down by the sharply lower oil prices seen during 1986 which hurt plantations' profits.

However, the company's profits during 1986 were increased by at least 30p thanks to lower charges for taxation and minorities.

Yule also criticised Barrow's industrial holding group for its recent purchase of TFC Coatings, a chemical goods company, whose owners have agreed not to sell their Barrow shares to a hostile bidder.

Yule's current paper and cash bid, worth 5p a share, seems unlikely to succeed with Barrow stock standing 3p higher in the market.

EMAP switch

EMAP, the newspaper and magazine publishing group, is scrapping its two-tier share structure under which ordinary shares are entitled to 40 votes each. Holders will receive a free one-for-seven share issue to compensate for coming into line with A shares carrying one vote each.

Bank seeks quick judgment on Khoo

Singapore (Reuters) - Prospects of a negotiated settlement are still remote in the National Bank of Brunei affair, and pressure on the financier Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat is mounting as hearings in a variety of legal actions by the Brunei authorities against companies related to the multi-millionaire come up in regional courts.

In the first case to be heard, a Hong Kong court will today consider a request by lawyers acting for Damik Seri Abdul Rahman Karim, controller of the bank, for a summary judgment for the repayment of some 120 million Brunei dollars (£37.5 million) against three Hong Kong-registered companies connected to the Khoo family. This is an effort to avoid the expense and time involved in fighting a full-scale court case by convincing a judge that the opposing party does not have a viable defence.

If the judgment is granted, the judge could order the immediate repayment of the loans.

The controller, who is also permanent secretary at the sultanate's Ministry of Finance, took responsibility for the bank's affairs on November 20 when the ministry took over the bank and arrested a number of its senior officers, including Khoo Ban Hock, the chairman, who is the eldest son of Khoo Teck Puat.

The Khoo family owned about 70 per cent of the bank when it was closed, with the remainder believed to be effectively controlled by the sultanate's royal family, which has a long history of association with the Khoo family and the bank itself.

When the closure of the bank was announced, the ministry alleged that Khoo Ban Hock and the other bank officials loaned 1,328 billion Brunei dollars of the bank's funds to Khoo-related companies - without proper documentation or security. A

source close to the controller claimed last week that the total amount in question has fluctuated since then, saying it now stood at just under one billion Brunei dollars.

Lawyers acting for the controller have issued 23 other writs against Khoo companies since the bank was closed - 15 in Singapore, five in Brunei itself and three in Malaysia, seeking either direct repayment of loans or payment from Khoo companies which guaranteed those loans.

Khoo Teck Puat himself has also been sued in Singapore as the guarantor for two loans, totalling 395 million Singapore dollars (£123 million), allegedly made to the Brunei-registered Leo Investment Corp.

Meanwhile, the Khoo family is seeking to have the five writs issued in Brunei set aside on the grounds that they were improperly served. That hearing is set for Thursday.

The economy is set for two more years of healthy growth, according to a forecast published today by ANZ Merchant Bank. Fears that the consumer spending boom is overheating the economy are misplaced, the bank says.

The consumer boom will not result in either an unsustainable balance of payments deficit or substantially higher inflation, says ANZ, which incorporates Capel-Cure Myers, the stockbroker.

The current account deficit is expected to be limited to £2 billion this year and £2.5 billion in 1988, with growth rates of consumer spending at 3.7 per cent and 3.5 per cent respectively.

Gross domestic product is forecast to rise by 2.8 per cent this year and by 2.3 per cent in 1988, while inflation will rise to a peak of 5 per cent in the third quarter of this year and then ease back to 3 per cent by the end of 1988.

Part of the reason for the bank's optimism on inflation is the belief that a re-elected Conservative Government would take sterling into the European Monetary System by late summer.

This would permit an immediate reduction in base rates of 1.5 per cent.

"Any capital reconstruction to release the value of the preference shares needs agreement from both classes of shareholder and possibly an amendment to legislation governing the company," he says.

Mr Whittaker wrote to MSCC shareholders last Monday claiming that he could win control of the company by obtaining more than 50 per cent of the votes by splitting down shareholdings to nominees. The peculiar structure of the company is weighted heavily towards small shareholders. And it still has statutory obligations to fulfil.

The battle is only likely to be resolved when Mr Berry, his managing director, Mr Julian Taylor, and the board of Manchester Ship Canal hold what promises to be a stormy annual general meeting next month.

The chairman argues that Mr John Whittaker, chairman of Highways, is locked in to 70 per cent holding of MSCC preference shares.

They have indicated that they will not accept Highways' offer. Mr Berry is chairman of Harrop, which together with his own holdings, has 750,000 MSCC shares. Mr Berry says that some of the MSCC directors will accept the Highways offer of 62.5p a share which closes on Wednesday.

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Interest rates soar as inflation hits Brazil again

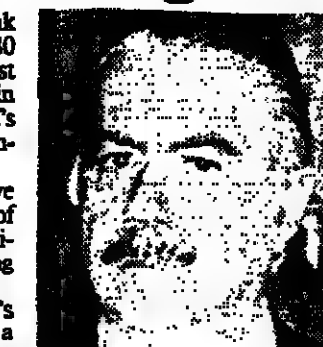
Sao Paulo (Reuters) - Bank interest rates surged 180 percentage points in Brazil last week, putting another nail in the coffin of the government's anti-inflation programme announced nearly a year ago.

The economy's woes have brought growing criticism of Senator José Sarney, the president, who has been quarrelling with industrial leaders.

Until November, Brazil's Cruzado Plan, combining a price freeze and currency reform, was being widely hailed as a courageous and effective onslaught on inflation.

But during the past two months, inflation has returned with a vengeance. Economists say that in some ways the economy - especially the trade outlook - is in worse shape now than before the Cruzado Plan, when inflation was threatening to top 300 per cent.

In the financial markets last week interest rates on short-term bank certificates of



Senator Sarney: facing calls for resignation

posit stood at 220 per cent, up from 50 per cent in early November. By Friday they had soared to 400 per cent, back at levels prevailing before the anti-inflation drive was announced on February 28 last year.

The inflationary pressures are particularly strong in São Paulo, Brazil's economic capital, where the monthly inflation rate for December was estimated at 15.96 per cent.

Two years of growth predicted

By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

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Deficit in clothing nears £2bn

By Teresa Poole
Business correspondent

Britain's trade deficit in clothing and textiles widened to almost £2 billion for the first nine months of 1986 because of a surge in clothing imports from the Far East, according to figures published today.

The latest report from the British Textile Confederation shows an 18 per cent increase in the number of imported garments. This pushed up the total import value of textiles and clothing by 7 per cent while the value of Britain's exports remained virtually unchanged.

Most of the increase in clothing imports was from countries covered by the Multi Fibre Arrangement which increased clothing sales to Britain by 21 per cent. Imports from other EEC countries were just 1 per cent higher.

The six largest Far Eastern clothing exporters - Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan, China, Macao, and Thailand - lifted their volume share of British clothing imports from 43 per cent to 52 per cent because of the decline in the currencies of these countries.

On the other hand, the decline of sterling against European countries led to a sharp improvement in British clothing and textile exports to West Germany, France, and Switzerland.

Microwave users and grocery chains are forcing changes on the packaging industry, according to a review published this week.

Makers of flexible packs, whose market share is growing, have to cope with competition from imports. European overcapacity and new high-technology processes, the survey by Crown Industrial Division says.

Packagers are having to come up with sophisticated containers that can withstand high pressures and tem-

peratures to stop food spilling out - but they also have to be cheaper to make.

The study says multiple stores have a tendency to look abroad for goods, be slow in paying bills and refuse price reductions based on cost.

British demand for wrappings fell in the first half of the 1980s. Paper and paper board packaging still had £1,447 million, or 30 per cent of the total market in 1985, even though new materials, such as oriented polypropylene have taken a bigger share.

Packagers wrapped up in high-tech problems

By Anne Warden

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It followed that the reduction in prices for liquid skimmed milk which would have occurred had the British system of setting milk prices allowed the Community aid to have full effect would have made the use of liquid skimmed milk more advantageous than that of competing feedstuffs and would have therefore increased consumption of that product.

It had therefore to be concluded that the setting of a higher price for liquid skimmed milk used for animal feed interfered with the efficient functioning of the Community aid schemes intended to encourage such use of the product in question.

On those grounds, the European Court:

1 Declared that by authorizing the boards to operate a system for dual pricing for whole milk utilized for the manufacture of butter depending on whether it was to be sold as intervention or bulk butter or as package butter on the retail market, and

(ii) differential pricing for whole milk utilized for the manufacture of butter and cream depending on whether the skimmed milk obtained in such manufacture was used as animal feed or processed into skimmed milk powder, then

The UK had failed to fulfil its obligations under article 10 of Council Regulation No 1422/78 of June 20, 1978 and article 6 of Commission Regulation No 1565/79 of July 25, 1979.

2 Ordered the UK to pay the costs including those incurred by the intervenor, the French Republic.

Under the system applied in the UK the sole effect of the Community aid was to allow

the use of liquid skimmed milk as animal feed by ensuring that the selling price was as low as possible.

The objective to which that aid was directed could be achieved by selling the product to users at a price lower than that which could be obtained if there were no Community aid and in any event at a price not higher than that of the same milk intended for another use.

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TELEPHONE

London takes up the billion pound challenge

There have been so many new exhibition and conference centres opened or announced during the past year that Confex, the exhibition for the conference and exhibition industries which opens in Islington, London, on Wednesday, has a complete section devoted to them. It will include details of 16 new venues, each of which will be fighting for a share of a business that is claimed to be worth about £1 billion a year.

For organizers, the increased choice of venues is a welcome development. No longer is London the only possible site for a major exhibition or conference. The National Exhibition Centre near Birmingham, G-Mex in Manchester and the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre in Glasgow are all providing strong competition.

Predictably, the London venues are reacting to the challenge. The new Olympia Conference Centre will, it is claimed, fill a gap in the market which has been identified as exhibitions which include a conference, or conferences that include a major exhibition. Both types of event are becoming increasingly common yet very few big exhibition venues have ready-built conference facilities.

Conference centres, on the other hand, often have little or no exhibition space.

The Olympia Conference Centre is designed to be used either as a self-contained unit or in conjunction with Olympia 2. It provides a 450-seat raked auditorium with break-out rooms and its own exhibition space.

Alexandra Palace in north London will, according to its management, meet much the

This week, with the opening of Confex, another round starts in the battle between London, the provincial centres and the seaside resorts for a slice of the lucrative international conference and exhibition business

same need as Olympia. The Palace was gutted by fire in 1980 and has been refurbished at a cost of £35 million. Due to open in January, 1988, the building will have the capacity to host exhibitions and conferences, though it is aimed at smaller events.

In Islington, the Business Design Centre, affectionately known as The Aggie, has also been refurbished, this time at a cost of £10 million. This 40,000 sq ft exhibition centre plays host to Confex and includes a 250-seat theatre and the required catering space.

The new Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre was built by the Government to provide a secure venue for its own conferences. Faced with a substantial annual operating deficit, however, the Government decided that this building was to be made available to commercial organizations for conferences. Thus, another new competitor was added to the capital's conference market.

Outside London, there have been even more conference and exhibition centres opened or announced.

The National Exhibition Centre near Birmingham has recently published plans for an additional 200,000 sq ft of exhibition space. This will allow three of the existing halls to be

used almost exclusively for conferences and entertainment. Due to open in 1989, the new halls will come on stream just two years before the most ambitious new conference centre to be announced in Britain so far, also to be built in Birmingham.

The city claims that the new Birmingham Convention Centre will be "Britain's first purpose-built convention centre". This is a bold claim but it appears to be borne out by the plans that were revealed 18 months ago. The team responsible for planning the building spent a great deal of time researching the market and if they carry their ideas through, then the new centre will certainly be well suited to conference use.

This is more than can be said for some of the other buildings being sold as conference venues. The problem is that many are paid for by local authorities who want a multi-purpose centre that can be used for conferences as and when necessary. One of the more recent examples of this approach is the Bournemouth International Centre. The building appears to have been designed for pop and classical music concerts, sports events, conferences and exhibitions.

This multiple use means that it lacks many of the facilities that purpose-built centres should have. Some argue that it does not even constitute an acceptable compromise.

The team that produced this building is currently constructing another, along much the same lines, in Torquay. With a 19,000 sq ft exhibition hall and conference space for audiences of between 350 and 1,500, the new Riviera Centre is due to open in the spring.



Building the £16 million Sandcastle: Blackpool's director of tourism, Barry Morris, at Britain's first "indoor seaside"

Given the lack of major conference facilities in the West Country, it seems likely that it will be successful in attracting business simply because there are very few alternatives.

While Torquay is looking forward to the benefits of having a major venue, the Manchester tourist industry is already experiencing significant growth in facilities, partly as a result of the opening of the G-Mex exhibition centre. No less than six international hotels are due to open in the city within the next year. This will bring an additional 900 four and five-star hotel bedrooms, a significant increase which will require a major sales effort on the part of all concerned.

G-Mex itself is claimed to be running at 70 per cent occupancy in its first year and that is a remarkable achievement.

The Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre in Glasgow is achieving similar success and, it is claimed, will become Britain's premier exhibition and conference venue when the recently announced 300-bedroom hotel is added to the complex. The centre itself has more than 100,000 sq ft of exhibition space and a conference hall for 2,000 delegates.

Whether or not there will be sufficient business available

for all of these buildings remains to be seen. According to some sources in the exhibition industry the days of new, major events are over. Exhibitions in future, they claim, will be smaller and more specialized. One result of this is that the centres themselves are having to become exhibition promoters in order to fill their halls since the number of existing ex-

There seems little doubt that the number of centres will grow, but it is just as likely that some will become liabilities

hibitions will not provide sufficient business for all of the venues.

But, while exhibition centre managers may be able to create new shows, the conference centres have to rely, in the main, on others for

business. Since the British Tourist Authority claims that 80 per cent of conferences involve audiences of less than 250, the wisdom of building large auditoria for conferences must be questioned. Certainly, the privatization of companies such as British Telecom and British Gas has brought with it the need for big meeting spaces for annual general meetings, but they are very few in number.

There are, however, some in the conference industry who claim that organizers are becoming more demanding in the facilities that they require. Where they have been happy in the past to use a hotel function room for their annual conference, increasing numbers are looking for more theatrical environments. If this is true, then there may be enough business available for all of the new conference facilities.

The prizes that these centres are reaching for are substantial. The Barbican claims to have generated £230 million for the national economy in the five years since it opened.

Birmingham City Council reckons that the new Convention Centre will support 10,000 jobs in the service sector and attract revenue worth £54 million a year to the region.

In the Channel Isles, Jersey

has opened a new Conference Bureau as part of a more aggressive marketing policy. While the main business is corporate conferences of between 50 and 200 delegates - in 1985 more than 15,000 delegates attended 249 conferences - the island is capable of competing for very large meetings such as the Royal Air Force Association's 3,000 delegates and their guests.

These larger events are held at Fort Regent, Jersey's £6 million conference, entertainment and sports complex.

There seems little doubt, then, that the numbers of new exhibition and conference centres will continue to grow, but it is just as likely that some of the buildings will become financial liabilities.

Although the market is growing, it cannot expand quickly enough to provide the occupancy rates that are needed to justify the capital investment. This will lead to a downward spiral as owners of unsuccessful buildings cut back on maintenance, resulting in the buildings becoming even less attractive.

For the moment, however, exhibitors at Confex will be exuding confidence. But at least some of them must be looking to the future with a degree of concern.

Ken Clayton

Covering a nasty surprise

The lunch conference presentation of a new product often has a budget of more than £1 million - more than for many a West End play. Even for lesser events the cost of something going wrong can be immense. So insurance is essential, and the need for cover is growing.

Disasters come in many different shapes. Prominent examples include the IRA bombing of the Brighton Grand Hotel, which had a severe effect on a number of events scheduled for Brighton that year, and the burning down of Alexandra Palace.

But all manner of less newsworthy occurrences can wreck an event. A one-day conference in London could be wrecked by the announcement of a Royal Wedding on the day of the event. An airline or airport strike can stop delegates arriving, or the illness of a key speaker can cause cancellation.

But cancellation is only one of the risks. Failure to make a venue in time can bring severe financial penalties: an organizer may be liable for loss or damage to property hired or loaned, such as audio-visual equipment and exhibition stand schemes. He may also be liable for damage to the venue and there could be claims for injuries to other employees or third parties.

Some of these risks may be covered by companies' existing policies or by those of other parties involved in the event, but it is certain that not all of them will be.

Especially, there are now two brokers who provide insurance cover tailor-made for those involved in conferences and exhibitions. Expo-Sure, a member of the Sedgwick Group, offers a very sophisticated range of covers issued at Lloyd's, which enables it to handle most risks in one composite policy.

Robertson Taylor Insurance Brokers is another company offering a specialist service for conferences and exhibitions.

Michael Rines
Principal of Michael Rines Associates, marketing and communications consultants.

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Beauty is not enough

For too many exhibitors, the design of their stands is a one-off exercise. If the result looks attractive, then the company is satisfied. Yet if the stand is to provide a real return on the money spent on the exhibition, the company must establish clear objectives and communicate them to the designer who will use them as a marketing tool.

When a client is shown plans, drawings and a model, there is a temptation to view the stand in purely aesthetic terms. The way in which visitors will be enticed to the stand, the traffic flow and the arrangement of the business areas are too often forgotten.

It has been claimed that an exhibitor has an average of five seconds to attract the attention of passing visitors. If they pass by without stopping, the stand has failed as a design, even if it looks beautiful.

A splendid panoramic frontage will be of little use if it cannot be viewed from more than two yards away. The positions of 'islands' will be known at the planning stage and so a designer will know whether he has to contend with traffic that only passes directly in front of the stand or whether visitors will be able to see it at the end of an aisle.

A major exhibition can be as expensive as an advertising campaign, and clients should be prepared to spend as much time discussing plans with the designer as they would with an advertising agency.

According to Peter Cottrell who runs training courses aimed at companies that take part in exhibitions, the right approach can triple the number of sales leads taken at the average exhibition.

There are still exhibitions where stand staff can be seen talking to each other or to the personality girls who have been hired for the event. Others become engaged in prolonged conversations with known customers instead of seeking out and selling to new prospects.

The degree of product knowledge possessed by some stand staff is also satisfactory. This is particularly true of temporary staff. To be effective, these people need to be trained before the exhibition so that they can provide useful information.

If an exhibitor is to get value for money, then he has to take a professional approach. Only then will his stand be an effective sales tool.

KC



After the bomb: Brighton's Bill Burnett, fronting the Grand Hotel and conference centre

Mixing business with pleasure beside the sea

Seaside resorts have been popular places for meetings since before the turn of the century. Conferences and exhibitions generate off-peak business, estimated to be worth in excess of £1 million, when a political party or trade union is in town, plus the unquantifiable spin-off from newspaper and TV exposure.

Not surprisingly, the potential of the conference market has been recognized in the development of tourism, giving a wide choice of venues and keen competition for business.

When the British Association of Conference Towns (BACT), a membership organization of local authorities, tourist boards and convention bureaux, started in Scarborough in 1969, it basically represented resort towns. Now based in Kent, it has grown considerably in the past four years and represents 87 towns and cities in the UK.

Director Lloyd McLean said: "Local authorities are becoming more commercial and conferences are one sector of business they can cash in on. They are coming to realize it is a marvellous way to develop off-peak business."

Huge sums had been spent, he said, on new or refurbished developments because of increased expectations for conference facilities and hotel accommodation, especially now that Britain is in competition in the international sector. New patterns were emerging with Harrogate, Birmingham and Bath succeeding as international centres.

Association chairmen can influence the choice of venue - a Scot might lure his association to Edinburgh, a Welshman plump for Llandudno. Blackpool and Brighton had probably become political conference towns because of the need for north and south venues.

Blackpool lays claim to

being a pioneer conference town. Records show that in 1895 the Royal Society of Health held a conference in the Grand Theatre. Director of Tourism Barry Morris said: "We have been in the conference business ever since."

"The Winter Gardens complex, undergoing a £2 million refurbishment, is popular with all political parties. It has lots of nooks and crannies for political intrigue, something quite different from the new generation conference centres. We have been given an assurance by both major political parties that Blackpool will always be favoured."

Political party conferences, along with trade union and Rotary events (big spenders and they know how to enjoy themselves), the National Union of Students (they like to drink Perrier), the Inner Wheel (the ladies spend in the shops), are among conferences rated as "valuable".

Probably the best of all is the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs, attended by 10,000 delegates all out to have a good time.

The Association of British Travel Agents is meeting in March at Blackpool's new £16 million Sandcastle development on the South Shore, hailed as Britain's first "indoor seaside".

Blackpool is philosophic about the extreme security measures which have had to be taken at political conferences since the Brighton bombing. The cost of policing the first post-Brighton Conservative conference soared to £1 million - equivalent to the amount of cash the conference is thought to have generated.

The resort was learning all the time how to tighten up security without worrying people about it, said Mr Morris. But it was pushing through the British Resorts Association, to get the Government to foot the bill of policing high-risk conferences.

The association's finance director, Ron Jones, said that a meeting would shortly be held to discuss the "Blackpool experience" and the "Bournemouth experience". Both had stories to tell of "London-blitz conditions" during Conservative Party conferences.

Although primarily geared to tourism and a lobby on such issues as Sunday trading and licensing hours, the association has become increasingly involved with the conference market, dealing with higher standards of facilities demanded.

Brighton, which is hosting the Labour Party conference this year, traces its conference history to those held by the Prince Regent, later King George IV, at his summer residence, the Royal Pavilion, which is today offered as part of the conference package.

The bomb-damaged Grand Hotel has been rebuilt and is one of the finest in Europe, said Brighton's director of Tourism, Bill Burnett.

Around £60 million is being spent on upgrading accommodation in Brighton. Figures issued last year showed that it was the most popular destination for international conferences outside London.

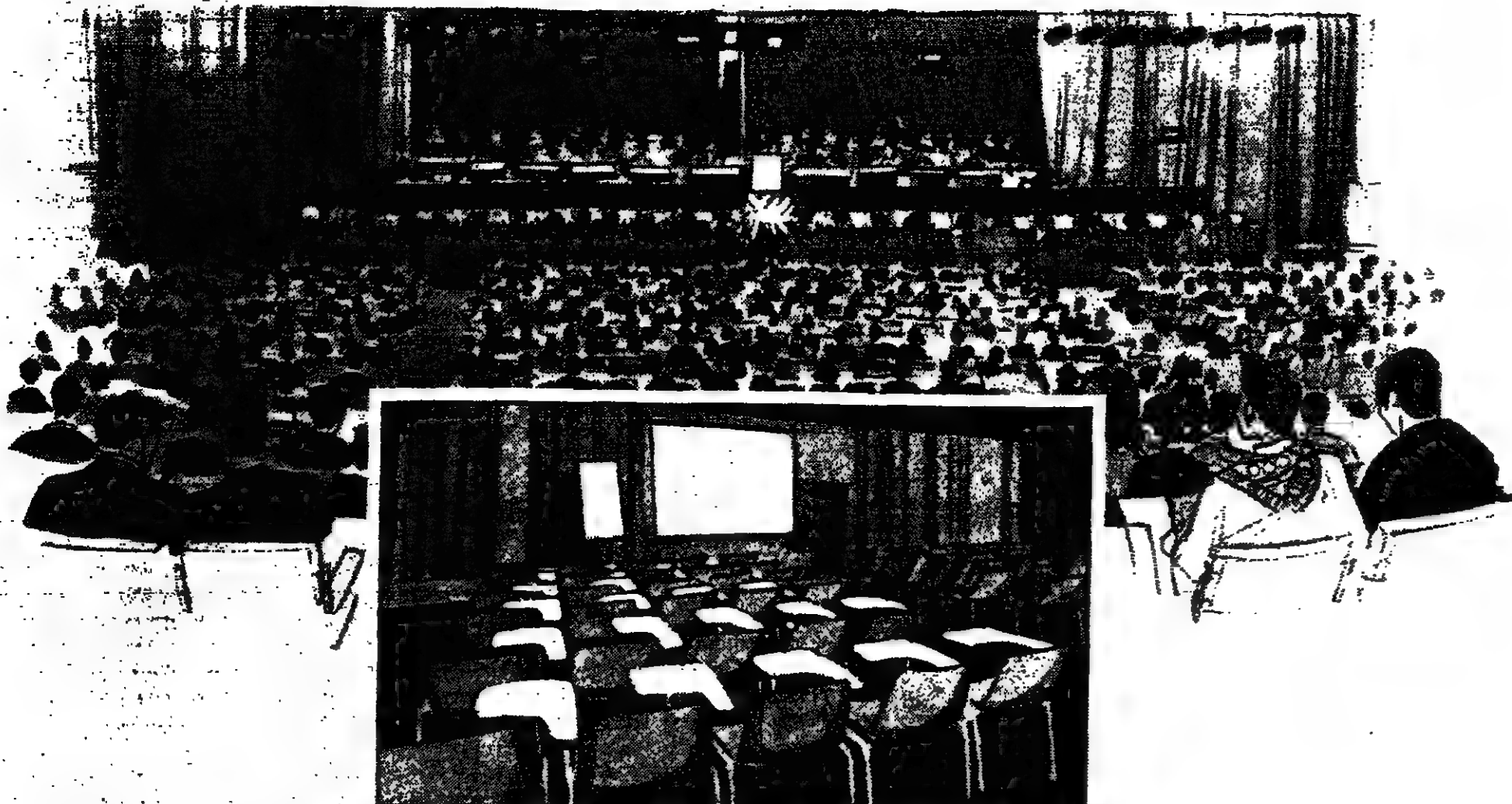
An international architects' congress and the International Federation of Libraries Association conferences are lined up for this year.

Eastbourne, which is constantly updating facilities to the "latest state of the art", attracts repeat business. It has hosted Amalgamated Engineering Union conferences for many years.

Irene Farnsworth

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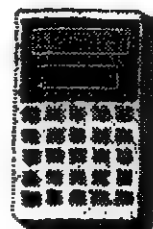


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28/1/87 15:50

What every hotel owner should know

Anyone asking a hotel's banqueting manager for help in organizing a dinner can always count on being met with abundant ideas for making the evening a success.

Recommendations on menus, wines, table decorations and seating arrangements are commonplace. But, until a few years ago, a request for a conference to be held in an hotel was met by blank looks.

Happily, that situation has changed in many hotels, and particularly in those of the leading groups. From being a useful additional sideline, conferences have become accepted as an essential part of most hotels' business.

The way has been led by Holiday Inns which, 10 years ago, was the first group to install standard packages of conference equipment, including a slide projection system, a cine projector, an overhead projector, a sound system, a stage set with both back and front projection surfaces and a lectern.

But it was not the installation of the hardware that was the most significant step. It was the decision to train hotel staff, not only to be able to set up and maintain the equipment, but also to understand the specialist needs of the conference organizer.

Hotel staff should not be surprised by questions from a conference organizer like "Have you got three-phase power? Do you have a four-way extension we can borrow? Can my AV crew have a meal at 3 am?"

This illustrates the first essential for an hotel going into the conference business:

its management and staff likely to have anything to do with conferences must learn enough about organizing such events to enable them to understand — and, if possible, anticipate — the organizer's needs.

In particular, the conference organizer should be offered a contact in the hotel who not only understands his requirements but is available throughout his event and has sufficient authority to get things done.

Two examples illustrate the sort of thing that is necessary in existing hotels, which may not have been purpose designed for conferences.

First, many hotel banqueting rooms, which are used for meetings, have ornate, low-hanging chandeliers that interfere with projection lines for slides and cine.

Second, it should be appreciated that unlike normal hotel guests, conference delegates are likely to want their breakfasts all at the same time. When a new hotel is being built or when a purpose-built conference suite is being added to an hotel, it is essential to involve a conference production company as a consultant.

Few architects have sufficient understanding to get it right unaided, and the opportunity should be grasped to ensure, for instance, that the shape of the meeting room is right, with no obstructions to sight lines, the ceiling height adequate, and blacking-out and sound-proofing effective.

Acoustics have been considered from the outset and do not have to be improved by later adaptation.

air conditioning is built-in,

and is, unlike some systems, inaudible.

access for equipment and large exhibits, such as cars, is available without having to go through the hotel's public areas.

a separate entrance and reception area for conference delegates, plus office space and facilities for the organizer, are provided.

lights are dimmable, there are plenty of power points and three-phase power is available.

Finally, the best facilities and the deepest understanding of conference organizers' needs are available if their availability is not effectively communicated.

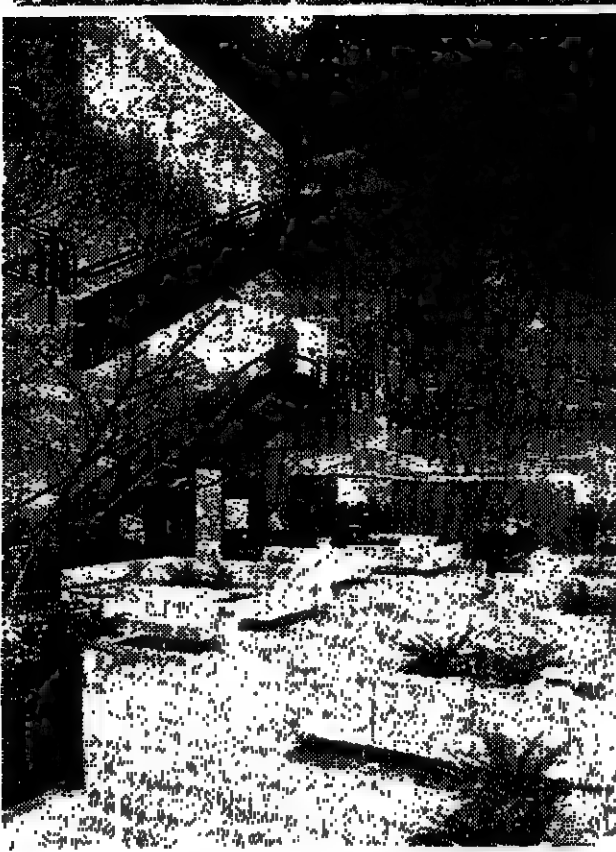
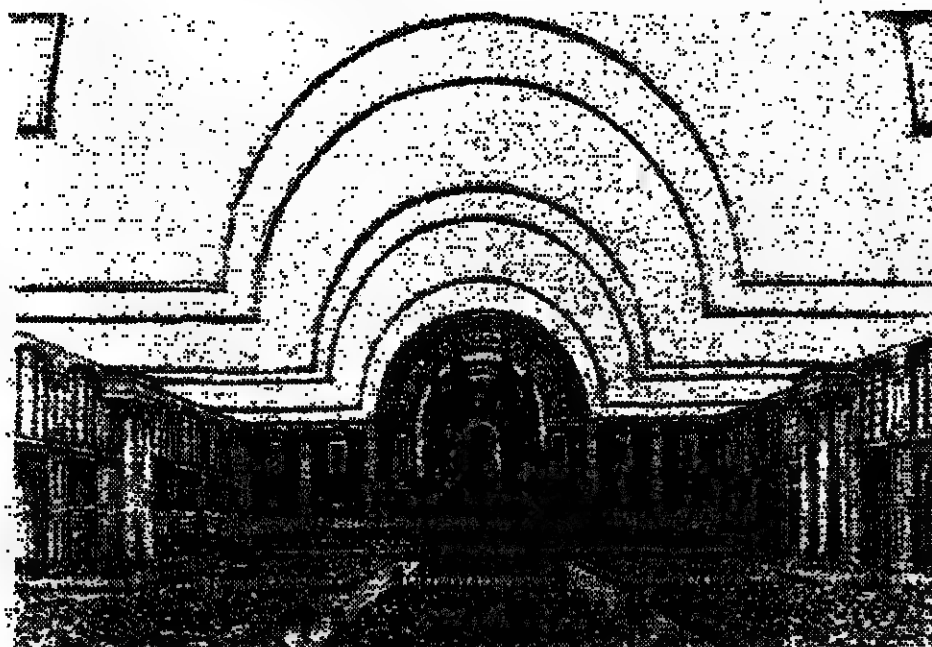
In the past, most hotels were guilty of failing to provide adequate information in a form of practical value to conference clients. Now, however, leading hotel groups like Holiday Inns, Thistle and THF are providing conference brochures for their properties that set out much of the essential information in a useable form.

Room dimensions and plans are now becoming commonplace, for example, and it is even better if, like THF, there is standardization of brochure format for all properties, so that proper comparisons can easily be made.

Sadly, there are still too many hotels that fail to come up to the high standards required. To them, the conference guest is still a second-class citizen who fortuitously provides revenue during slack periods.

They have only themselves to blame if they fail to get their share of a lucrative and fast expanding market.

Eric Rymer



A wide and varied choice of venues greets the conference goer: An artist's impression in the top picture shows the Great Hall at Alexandra Palace set for conference. The Bournemouth International Centre, top right, undergoes stringent security checks before a Tory Party conference, and, above left, the Olympia Conference Centre scheduled to open in September 1987. The successful Manchester exhibition complex, above right, was 70 per cent booked in its first year.

All hands to meet on deck

The majority of conferences in Britain are held in hotel function rooms. So far as conference organizers are concerned, these rooms are perfectly adequate for their needs. But an increasing number are recognizing that there can be advantages in using other venues.

Country houses, for example, have a gracious atmosphere and according to Lord Bradford, owner of Weston Park in Shropshire, provide an environment that is very personal.

Like Brockett Hall near Welwyn, Weston Park can accommodate groups over-

nights, but not every country house has the ability to do this. Hagley Hall near Birmingham, for example, can be used only for meetings and entertaining. Even so, Hagley is achieving considerable business success in the conference and incentives markets.

The one problem that virtually every country house shares, however, is that the rooms available for meetings are relatively small.

An increasing number of companies are overcoming this difficulty by using temporary buildings such as Tunnel Vision from Owen Brown in Loughborough, which pro-

vides a blacked out meeting space with raked seating for up to 750 people.

Obviously all the services have to be brought in, but Tunnel Vision can provide a conference room where the permanent facilities are limited.

Although some country houses are available on an exclusive use basis, a cruise ship can provide the ultimate choice.

Companies like P&O are achieving success, but the originators of ship board conferences appear to be the Finns.

The Finnjet has been providing conference facilities for many years, but it has been overtaken in quality. The M.V. Mariella, for example, has a self contained conference area with a 300 seat raked auditorium and a variety of other meeting rooms.

The one drawback with all these ships is that they are, first and foremost, ferries, although the standards on board are better than many first class hotels. A maritime venue can be found without ever leaving London. HMS Belfast is the last surviving Royal Navy cruiser from the Second World War and is moored on the Thames. The largest meeting room can take 125 delegates, theatre style with the Admiral's Quarters providing space for a boardroom layout for 20 people.

The range of alternative venues throughout the country is vast and growing all the time. Indeed, any organizer who is looking for somewhere different should have no difficulty in finding something to meet his needs.

KC

Faces to charm the crowds

Since the days of the silent films, well known faces have been able to draw a crowd. In the 1920s, Randolph Valentine was guaranteed to have hundreds of women swooning wherever he appeared. Today, a wide choice of famous faces can be hired to draw a crowd, but they have to be used with care.

As Jo Peters, one of a growing band of people who specialise in providing personalities for exhibitions and conferences points out: if the right crowd is to be attracted, then the right face has to be used.

"You have to know who the exhibitor is selling to before you can select the right personality for them," she says. "This is less of a problem with public shows since exhibitors at these events are likely to be selling to a wider range of people."

Even then, however, there are pitfalls. Although high earners do watch Eastenders for example, many are reluctant to admit that they are fans, and may pass by a stand where one of the stars of that show is appearing.



The "Eastenders" stars: A big draw but will everyone stop and talk to them?

When the personality has been selected and booked, a full briefing will be necessary. The face needs to know what he or she is expected to do, what business the exhibitor is in and what products or services he is promoting.

Even so, it is unlikely that the personality will endorse the exhibitor's products. According to Jo Peters, this is becoming a more frequent point for discussion when personalities are booked.

If a sales message is to be delivered, there is a cheaper alternative than a personality. In recent years, radio controlled robots have become increasingly popular at exhibitions. Robots such as Denby are able to engage passers by in conversation and even stop people in their tracks. Provided Denby's operator is given a full brief, he can make sales points during the exhibition.

But Denby is unusual. The famous faces who are commonly used for personal appearances rely on their fame to attract visitors. It is then up to the exhibitor to deliver the sales message.

There is little doubt that personalities will continue to be used at exhibitions even if it is merely because exhibitors like their stands to look busy. The right face can achieve that.

KC

Centres emerging by the thousand

One of the 10 commandments of organizing conferences and exhibitions is to plan ahead: they can take anything from two to 10 years to set up. Even smaller business seminars, a growth area, need to be planned well in advance in order to book the best venue.

The National Convention Bureau, a division of the British Association of Conference Towns (BACT), runs a free advice and information service for meetings, conferences, exhibitions and incentives destinations. Specific needs are discussed and a computer print-out produced.

Lloyd McLean, the BACT director, who is also chief executive of the British Exhibition Venues Association, said: "Our service, financed by members' fees, is impartial. Clients are not being directed to specific hotels or conference centres. We urge people to visit venues, consider possibilities and arrange meetings with the local authority conference officers concerned."

Conference Care, started in 1984, has a computerized data bank of nearly 3,000 venues and will also negotiate bookings. Both services are free.

A recently published book, *How to Organize a Better Conference*, by Ken Clayton, tells you where to turn for information and help and covers every aspect of conference planning.

Described as the "meeting planner's bible", *The Conference Blue Book*, published by Spectrum Communications since 1978, lists 2,500 venues in the 1986/87 edition. With its companion, *The Conference Green Book*, a guide to unusual settings, they cost £35 the pair through Spectrum Communications.

Publications by the British Tourist Authority (BTA) and the English Tourist Board (ETB) concentrate on directing British towns and cities with conference facilities to organizations likely to be

holding conferences and looking for venues.

These include the ETB's *What Conferences? 1987*, listing associations with anniversary they might be celebrating; the BTA International Conference Calendar 1987-1997 listing forthcoming conferences; and the BTA's *Unusual Venues*, a new book.

The ETB's Conference Data Bank, researched by Middlesex Polytechnic, gives full details of more than 5,000 conferences and meetings to help conference centres increase their business.

© Sources of information:

British Association of Conference Towns (BACT), 45 Dorset Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN11 1LB. Tel: 0882 33442. British Tourist Authority (BTA), 100 Strand, London WC2R 0AL. Tel: 01-446 9000. Conference Care, PO Box 12, York YO1 1YX. Tel: 0904 58310. (BTA's subsidiary offering rail travel and full package facilities for conferences). Conference Care, 1 Union Street, Bedford MK40 2SF. Tel: 0294 327765.

Publications: *How to Organize a Better Conference* by Ken Clayton, published by Hutchinson, price £12.95 (available at bookshops). *The Conference Blue and Green Books* 1986/87, price £35 the pair from Spectrum Communications Ltd, Spectrum House, 191 The Vale, London W8 7DL. Tel: 01-446 4444.

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On the big screens

Audio visual equipment is now an inseparable part of exhibitions. Slide/tape programmes, video players, interactive video and multiple television systems are all commonplace.

At major exhibitions, there will often be exhibitors who have large displays of multiple television screens. Each screen is capable of showing one part of a total picture which is spread across as many as 48 separate screens.

The creative possibilities that the system presents are impressive and, from a distance, the effect can be stunning. A prime example was a programme that was shown on the concourse of Euston station. Yet these systems often cannot be seen from a distance at an exhibition and so the relatively poor quality of the picture becomes painfully evident.

The problem stems from the fact that the industry is always quick to latch on to

new technologies, sometimes without thinking about whether or not it is suited to a specific use.

The same is often true of interactive video. The viewer is asked questions and is shown sections of the video programme, which is chosen as a result of the answers he gives.

Used properly, the system is extremely effective, particularly for training.

That use does avoid one of the more frequent mistakes made in video programmes for exhibition use. If the computer program has been designed efficiently, then a visitor can select the part of the video that he wishes to see.

At least one experienced producer claims that video programmes for exhibitions should last no more than five minutes. "People just won't stand around for longer than that," he claims.

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HORIZONS

A guide to
career choice

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

Horse sense for school leavers

Working with horses can mean many things to many people. For the horse industry, it is somewhere between the extremes that they would like to promote and create an industry with uniform standards of horse care and stable management.

Recently, different groups of people, all involved with horses, got together to create the Horse Industry: an umbrella heading, collectively seeking to create standards, detailed in their booklet, *Levels of Horse Care and Stable Management*. Into this industry the Manpower Services Commission saw fit to add a course, *Working with Horses*, to their Youth Training Schemes.

Until the advent of the YTS course, the only way for the majority of people to enter the horse world would be through the British Horse Society (BHS). Some, wishing to work with horses would first find a BHS-approved riding centre and then ask to be taken on as a working pupil. The pupil pays towards board and lodging, perhaps £15 per week, living as part of a team of stable hands, grooms and instructors.

The pupil would work, usually long hours, in the stables, looking after horses, mucking out stables, cleaning the yard, looking up and feeding the horses, and in return for the work the pupil receives practical experience, plus riding lessons and lectures.

£40 a week for a
pupil instructor

These lectures cover different aspects of horse care, veterinary knowledge, stable management and riding. As a working pupil you work towards your BHS exams, possibly after one or two years taking your assistant instructor's certificate. This would then give you teaching experience and put you on a salary of £40 per week or so. From here you may decide to find work within the industry or to continue as a working pupil, going towards the next stage, the Intermediate Instructor's Certificate. This can take another two or three years.

In the horse industry the life of a student can span many years. From BHS, stage one, to the instructor's certificate may take 10 years or more.

The majority of working pupils in the horse industry are women. According to Angela De Smith, an assistant instructor and pupil worker at Ashdown Forest Riding School, women generally have more dedication than men. An essential ingredient, it seems, to last the course in the horse world.

Angela works at a BHS-approved riding centre, and since passing her A.I. her work at the stables consists mainly of teaching, with a bit of livery thrown in for variety. Livery work is looking after horses that private owners pay to keep in stables, caring for the horses and exercising them.

"I like my work to be varied", says Angela. "Once I pass my intermediate instructor's certificate, there will be

Show ring glamour
apart, working with
horses can provide
a career which is
both satisfying and
demanding, says
Janis Mackay

more doors open for me. I'd like to work more with dressage so I'd find someone who specialised in this and ask to work for them." Working for someone is one way of getting on without necessarily having money behind you.

"It's a bit like the discipline finding his Gurn", says Angela, "you find someone you admire and ask to work for them. Through caring for the horses, grooming them, perhaps accompanying the teacher or boss to shows and having lessons, you can learn so much." Learning the tricks of the trade in the horse industry means getting right down to basics - through not being afraid to jump in and scrub, or jump over and even off Bumps and bruises, cracked teeth and broken bones can also be part and parcel of the rider's life.

"Some people come to work with horses expecting glamour and prestige", says Angela, "but that romantic picture is soon destroyed and such people soon leave. It's a tough life really. The hours are often long and the work quite physically demanding. As a student money can be tight, especially when you are starting out in a BHS school. At the same time it's a secure world - you know where your next meal is coming from and there's a healthy rhythm of the day that you soon fit in to."

Apart from the BHS, who are the main governing body within the horse industry, and their numerous riding centres with openings for young pupil workers, plus their ladder of exams, there now exists something quite new to the industry. That is the aforementioned YTS "Working with Horses" course. Here, school leavers aged 16 and 17, without necessarily riches or 'O' levels, are able to learn the basic skills in all aspects of horse care, riding and stable management.

Julian Campbell is the equine studies lecturer at Plumpton Agricultural College in Sussex, where he teaches YTS students. He is very enthusiastic about this course and welcomes it as a healthy balance within the horse industry. "There are two extremes in the industry", he says, "that is hard labour and even horse abuse, and then there's the spotlight on the glamour. People within the industry would like to reduce the stigma and build up the quality,

"I feel that the YTS course gives youngsters the chance to realise dreams and it gives them flavours of different avenues of work. Later on a student will normally choose to specialise in certain areas. These might include: teaching, dressage, competing, livery, eventing, breeding, racing...but in the early stages it is important to get a good grounding in all the practical aspects of horse care and stable management."

"Because the nature of the work is practical we have students here at the college for only 13 weeks in the year. The rest of the time they are attached to a Work Experience Provider (WEP) and here the student will work at stables, plus, depending on the situation, also receiving lessons and lectures."

A YTS student receives an allowance of £27.50 per week. The course is open to school leavers, lasting one or two years, depending on the age of the student and the facilities of the college. At the end of the course the graduate should be able to find work in a riding centre, perhaps as a groom or stable hand - and go on learning from there."

Captain Mark Phillips is well known for his involvement and achievements in the horse world. When speaking of this work he emphasises, adding his voice to the chorus, that horse work is not glamour and prestige but a lot of hard work, the hours are often long and the

Rapport needed
with countryside

work physically demanding.

In looking for someone to look after his horses he would look for someone who is responsible, sensible and with a genuine care for horses. "Working with horses is not an easily definable job", he says, "and can hardly be compared with working in town for instance. Working with animals is not a nine-to-five job; they need caring for every day."

"I would say that to succeed in this work you need to have a healthy relationship with the countryside - to enjoy open air and nature. It really depends on what you want to do in life; if horses are for you then opportunities are there. If you're looking to earn a fortune and work in centrally-heated offices then this won't be what you want in life. Because to work with horses is not simply to choose a job - but to enter a way of life."

Learning, developing further skills, passing further exams...there is no end to development and Julian would recommend a healthy bout of ambition in order to get on in the horse world. And at 28 years of age, with already a string of certificates behind him, Julian certainly has ambition. As well as being a chief instructor and lecturer, he is also a BHS examiner, dressage judge, competitor and family man with two children.

Doors then, are there to be opened. Jobs are there to be done; the horse industry is one of the few to boast a healthy employment market.

ASTON UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT CENTRE
CORPORATE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

The Corporate Management Division, headed by Professor E.W. Davis, provides a significant input into integrated degree programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Specialist options include Market Research, Consumer Behaviour, International Marketing, Business Finance, Taxation and International Finance, as well as mainstream courses in Financial and Management Accounting. Contract research programmes cover the organisation of management accounting and currency risk management in U.K. companies.

Lectureship in Marketing

Ref. 86672

While the successful candidate will be expected to have a proven commitment to teaching and research, relevant business experience will be welcome. Applications from either young graduates with exceptional promise or successful practitioners contemplating a career change.

Lectureship/Senior Teaching Fellow in Accounting

Ref. 86682

A qualified graduate accountant with either teaching and research backgrounds or with relevant practical experience, is sought, to play an active role in teaching and to contribute towards course development in the Management Centre.

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT & POLICY STUDIES DIVISION

Successful candidates for the following post will be members of this active division of the Management Centre. Ideally, candidates will have a good first degree and a higher degree in a relevant area of management, with practical experience in either Marketing or Strategic Management. Every opportunity will be given for successful candidates to further their research and consultancy interests.

Teaching Fellow in Strategic Management

Ref. 86722

The chief responsibilities of this post, will be the teaching of Business Policy and Strategic Management to undergraduate and postgraduate students and contributing to the development of post-experience courses for industry and commerce.

SALARIES

Lectureship - will be within, and may be up to the maximum of, the range £8,020-£15,700 per annum.

Teaching Fellow - will be within the range £8,020 to £18,625 per annum.

Senior Teaching Fellow - will be within the range £14,870 to £18,625 per annum.

All salaries are presently under review.

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from: The Personnel Officer (Academic Staff), quoting the appropriate Reference Number, Aston University, Aston Triangle, Birmingham B4 7ET.

Tel: 021 359 0870 (24-hour answer-phone). Closing date for the receipt of applications for post Ref. 86682 is 6th February 1987. Closing date for receipt of applications for posts Refs. 86672 and 86722 is 31st March 1987.

ASTON UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY
OF WARWICKSenior Assistant
Registrar (Personnel)

£14,870-£18,625 p.a. (under review)

Applications are invited for the post of Senior Assistant Registrar (Personnel). The successful candidate will be in charge of the Personnel Office and responsible to the Registrar for all aspects of personnel administration for academic and non-academic staff, including industrial relations. Some committee serving will also be involved.

Candidates should be good honours graduates, with significant experience in the personnel field, preferably within a University. A personnel qualification could be an advantage, but applications will also be considered from non-specialists with relevant University experience. Salary on Administrative Grade III scale.

Further particulars and application forms, returnable by 6th February 1987, from the Registrar, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL (0203 523627) quoting Ref. No. 25/28/86/1.

Faculty Positions

Faculty of Management

The University of Calgary, Faculty of Management, is seeking qualified individuals to fill positions in Accounting, Finance, Operations Management, Management of Organizations and Human Resources, Management Information Systems, Marketing, and Policy and Environment. The positions have been created as a result of an expansion of Management Programs at the University. Candidates with a Ph.D. or DBA are preferred.

In accordance with Canadian Immigration requirements, priority will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada.

The University of Calgary offers programs at the Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral levels. A relatively young institution, it provides a stimulating research and teaching environment. The Faculty of Management, accredited by AACSB, offers instruction at the Bachelor of Commerce and Masters in Business Administration levels. It is housed in Scurfield Hall, a new building designed specifically to meet the needs of management education.

Calgary, with a population of over 600,000, is situated in the foothills of the Canadian Rockies. The city is Canada's oil capital and one of the country's major financial centres. The new Centre for the Performing Arts houses two permanent theatre groups and a concert hall. A variety of sports activities are available for both the spectator and the participant. The mountains, less than an hour's drive to the West, provide summer and winter recreational opportunities. In 1988, Calgary will host the 1988 Winter Olympic Games.

A recruiting team from the Faculty of Management will be visiting various locations in England from February 9-13 inclusive. If you would like to meet with a representative during that period, please write to:

Dr. J.R. Brent Ritchie, Associate Dean
(Research and Development)
The University of Calgary
Faculty of Management
2500 University Drive N.W.
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2N 1N4

UNIVERSITY OF
MANCHESTER
CHAIR OF
PATHOLOGY

The University invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for appointment to a Chair of Pathology. Candidates should possess a qualification registrable with the General Medical Council, have a proven record of excellence in research in any area of pathology, and substantial experience in teaching, administration and the provision of histopathology services. The Central Manchester Health Authority is prepared to offer an honorary consultant contract to the successful, suitably qualified, applicant. The salary will be in the normal professional range for full-time clinical appointments with superannuation.

Applications (one copy suitable for photographic reproduction) giving full details of qualifications and experience together with the names and addresses of three persons to whom reference may be made, should be sent to the Registrar, The University, Manchester, M13 9PL, from whom further particulars may be obtained, and be received by him not later than February 27th, 1987. Please quote reference 261/86/71. Overseas candidates may apply by air mail letter in the first instance.

THE CITY
UNIVERSITY
Professor

in Optometry and Visual Science

Applications are invited for the post of Professor in the Department of Optometry and Visual Science.

The University regards this as an important post for the future of one of its major departments and wishes to appoint a person of standing in the optometry profession who will play a leading role in the expansion of research. The post could be associated with the Headship of the department, which is vacant following the untimely death of Professor Gerald Dunn.

Salary will be on the professional range, minimum £19,010 plus £1,297 per annum London Allowance (under review).

Further particulars and application forms are available from the Academic Registrar's Office, The City University, Northampton Square, London EC1V 0HB. Telephone 01-253 4399 Ext. 3035. Closing date 14th February 1987.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
CHAIR OF
ENVIRONMENTAL AND
OCCUPATIONAL
MEDICINE

Applications are invited from registered medical practitioners for the above post, which has been created by the University on funds provided by BP, ICI and Shell.

The holder will assume leadership of the Department and potentially should have wide experience in the field of occupational medicine; the appointee will be expected to pursue research primarily in occupational medicine and to cooperate and participate in the teaching programme of the Department. Candidates with appropriate experience in environmental physiology and medicine would be considered. It is anticipated that the University Health Board will award the successful candidate Honorary Consultant Status.

Salary on Range £23,500 to £30,340.
Further particulars and application forms from The Personnel Office, The University, Regent Walk, Aberdeen AB9 1FX with whom applications (2 copies) should be lodged by 27 February 1987 (Ref No. 22/86/9).

UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHAMPTON

PROFESSOR OF LAW

Applications are invited for a Chair in Law from candidates with specialised interests in any branch of legal studies. Further details may be obtained from the Secretary and Registrar, The University, Southampton, SO9 5NH, to whom applications (9 copies from persons in the UK) should be sent before 28 February, 1987.

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UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON
FINANCIAL
SECRETARY
TO THE COURT

A vacancy exists for a senior officer to become Financial Secretary to the Court and Head of the Finance and Statistics Division, a post which occupies a key place in the financial administration of the University. The Court is the supreme statutory authority in all matters relating to the custody, control and disposition of funds and investments of the federal University of London.

The Finance and Statistics Division is responsible for preparing the distribution of recurrent and equipment grants, monitoring student numbers and the presentation of financial staff, compilation and presentation of financial staff, student and statistical data, including the University Statistical Record. The Division plays an essential part in determining grant allocation and other policy decisions in respect of finance and student numbers and the Head of the Division would be expected to participate in the development of such policy.

Applicants must possess a degree or professional qualification, together with a breadth of administrative experience necessary to deal with a wide range of policy matters. The post is remunerated within Grade IV of the national pay scales for academically-related staff in Universities, the minimum salary for which is £9,010 (under review) plus London Allowance of £1,297 p.a.

Further particulars are available from the Personnel Manager, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU. Tel: 01-435 8800 ext. 3248. Closing date 6th February 1987.

UNIVERSITY
OF
SOUTHAMPTON
DEPARTMENT OF
PHYSIOLOGY AND
PHARMACOLOGY
LECTURESHP

Applications are invited for a lectureship (3 years in the first instance) in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology in the School of Chemical and Physiological Sciences. The successful candidate will be medical graduate with a higher degree in a physiological science who has an established record in developmental neurobiology. The recently appointed head of the department, Professor N.R. Saunders, is setting up a laboratory of developmental neurobiology; other related research interests in the department include neuropharmacology and neurochemistry. The successful candidate will teach medical students in the integrated systems course and science students in the School's unit course system.

The appointment will be made on the Lecturer's scale £8,020 - £15,700 per annum (under review).

Enquiries may be made to Professor N.R. Saunders, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, University of Southampton, Bassett-Crescent East, Southampton, SO8 3TH.

Applications (7 copies form applicants in the U.K. and one from others) should be sent to Mr. A.J. Small, The University, Highfield, Southampton, SO8 5NH, giving a brief curriculum vitae and the names and addresses and telephone numbers of three referees, and should be sent by 23 January, 1987. Please quote ref. no. 45/AJS/11.

UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
SENIOR
LECTURER/LECTURER
IN LAW

Applications are invited for a Senior Lectureship/Lectureship in the Department of Law. The Faculty of Law contains a Department of Law for undergraduate studies leading to the LLB degree and a Master of Laws (LLM) programme as well as a Department of Professional Legal Education (for practice-oriented studies leading to the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws, undertaken by graduates (intending to become lawyers). Applicants should possess a good degree in law, preferably to a higher degree, and a proven interest in and capacity for research. Experience of practice in Hong Kong or a similar jurisdiction would be an additional though not a necessary qualification. Applicants with any field of interest will be considered.

Annual salaries (superannuable) are on the scales: Senior Lecturer HK\$274,950-365,360 (9 points) (approx. £24,770-33,270). Lecturer HK\$176,880-265,680 (11 points) (approx. £15,930-26,530) (Sterling equivalents as at 4.12.86).

Starting salary will depend on qualifications and experience. At current rates, salaries tax will not exceed 17% of gross income. Housing benefits at a rental of 7% of salary, children's education allowances, leave, and medical benefits are provided.

Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from the Secretary-General, Association of Commonwealth Universities (Aps), 36 Gordon Square, London, WC1H 0PF, or from the Appointments Unit, Registry, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong. Closes: 16 February 1987.

UNIVERSITY OF
ST. ANDREWS

Applications are invited for the BUCHANAN CHAIR OF FRENCH which will fall vacant in October, 1987. Salary within the professional range.

Applications in typescript with the names of three referees should be sent by 12th February 1987 to the Senate House Office, The University, College Gate, St. Andrews, Fife, KY16 9AJ from whom further particulars may be obtained shortly.

BRITISH LIBRARY OF POLITICAL &
ECONOMIC SCIENCE
(London School of Economics)
ASSISTANT
LIBRARIAN

Applications are invited from graduate, professionally qualified, librarians for a post of Assistant Librarian, initially to work within the Official Publications and Serials Department of the Library's Technical Services Division.

The British Library of Political & Economic Science is the principal research library for the Social Sciences in the UK and the working library of the London School of Economics. Some 12,900 Serial titles are currently received and the library maintains extensive collections of Government and other official publications. Relevant professional experience would be an advantage; some knowledge of Western European Languages would be an additional recommendation. Some evening and Saturday duties in the Reader Services Division will be required. Salary will be on the Assistant Librarian scale (A 23,000 - £12,780, under review, plus £1,297 a year London Allowance). Annual Leave entitlement is 25 days, plus extra days at Christmas and Easter. Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from the Academic Staffing and Personnel Office of the London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 0AE (Tel. 01-404 4768). Applications must be received by 9 February 1987.

ST CATHARINE'S COLLEGE,
CAMBRIDGE
BURSARSHIP

The College is seeking to appoint a Bursar who will assume office on 1 July 1987 or as soon thereafter as possible. The successful candidate will also be placed in a Fellowship.

The Bursar is responsible for all matters affecting the investments, finances and legal position of the College. If the Bursar is not already a Teaching Fellow of the University of Cambridge, he or she will also be responsible for the College's major building and repair works, conferences, and other matters. In addition, a Bursar who is not a University Teaching Fellow and who is not given substantial academic responsibilities in the College will be expected to be an Honorary Bursar or Steward.

The second for a University Teaching Fellow will be settled according to circumstances; that for a full-time College officer will be settled according to the salary scale of the University of Cambridge, with the successful candidate, within the range £18,625-£22,000. (This range is currently under review.)

Further particulars of the post and the College may be obtained from:

The Master's Secretary,
St Catharine's College,
Cambridge, CB2 1RL.

MONASH
UNIVERSITY
Melbourne, AustraliaSIR OWEN DIXON AND
SIR JOHN BARRY
CHAIRS OF LAW

Applications are invited for appointment to the Sir Owen Dixon and Sir John Barry Chairs of Law to be held in the Faculty of Law. This Faculty was established in 1964. Since then six Chairs of Law plus the Dean-ship (which carries a Chair of Law) have been established.

Applications will be considered from scholars in any field of Law for the Chairs, although strengths in commercial law might be an advantage. The suitable appointees would be expected to undertake leadership in teaching, scholarship, and creative administration. In particular, the Faculty has strong commitments to further developing its extensive undergraduate programme including the clinical programme, a wide-ranging post-graduate programme, and its innovative and dynamic Centre for Commercial Law and Applied Legal Research which is responsible for in-depth further education, links with the professions and business, and applied research primarily in areas of commercial law. The successful candidates would be expected to provide academic leadership, involve themselves in the administration of the Faculty and participate actively in various aspects of Faculty and University life. Enquiries concerning degree courses, subjects taught in the Faculty, Faculty resources and responsibilities, and the resources and work of the Centre should be addressed to the Dean, Professor Robert Baxt.

Salary \$A58,348 per annum. Superannuation, travel and removal allowance, and temporary housing assistance.

Information on application procedure and further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar, Monash University, Clayton, Victoria 3168, Australia, or the Secretary General, Association of Commonwealth Universities (Aps), 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF.

Applications should reach the Registrar not later than 20 March 1987. Council reserves the right to make no appointment or to appoint by invitation at any stage.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Edited by Peter Dear
and Peter Davalle

Britain 1987: credit and debit account

CHOICE

Two out of three. Not a bad score for Mrs Thatcher in what could be general election year. If she happens to watch Granada Television's *World in Action* special State of the Nation (ITV, 8.30pm), her heart will glow at the success of the Earl and Countess of Aylesford and their equally successful offspring. But it will break into a blaze of light of Blackpool illuminations proportions when her dream citizen, Adrian Green, comes on screen. Life, he avers, needs more positives, fewer negatives. A middle-class manager, with Barclaycard, where credit is self, he himself is a positive credit to the conformist ideology of Mrs T. "Society," he opines, with a finality that ought to guarantee him an invitation to pop into No. 10 next time he happens to be in the area, "society gives us a set of rules, and I think it is important to stick to them."

one conforms to society, one will find life a lot easier". If conforming to society also entails the use of plastic cards, which is a fair inference, then this is where Adrian Green's parents will part company with him. They have never borrowed a penny. As for the Aylesfords, the political climate of Mrs Thatcher's Britain has favoured them more than a little, although they have more to thank than lower income tax levels. There is also that little matter of private enterprise — the dumping of Birmingham rubbish on the estate — that has brought in £2.2 million a year turnover. High marks for Mrs T, then, from the Aylesfords of Packington Park, and Adrian Green of Northampton. But low marks from the

working-class Reads of Coventry. Three of their low-paid children had to emigrate. Another daughter and her husband have been out of work for four years. There is little prospect of any Tory votes from a man who says: "If it carries on the way it's going, Britain is going to be down the drain."

to restore children to their rightful families, and skeletons are being disinterred so that bullet holes found in skulls can be used as evidence in bringing the executioners to justice. "Nunca mas" (never again) shouts the state prosecutor in the 1985 junta trial with which the *Horizon* films ends. To which we should all say Amen.

Peter Davalle



The Earl and Countess of Aylesford and family: ITV, 8.30pm

Live transmissions on BBC TV are subject to disruption through industrial action

- 6.55** *Centre AM*. News headlines followed by *Weather*. (r) 6.55
- 7.00** *Breakfast Time* with Frank Bough, Sally Magnusson, and Jeremy Paxman. National and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and traffic reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather details at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25.
- 8.40** *Watchdog*. Lynn Faulds Wood and John Stapleton warn of bogus modelling agencies. *8.55* Regional news and weather.
- 9.00** News and weather 9.05 Day to Day. Robert Kilroy-Glik, his guests, and the studio audience, discuss a topical subject *8.45* Parent Programme: How will projects for the under-fives fare after DHSS funding stops in March?
- 10.00** News and weather 10.05 *Neighbours*. (r) 10.05 *Children's BBC*. Programme news. 10.30 *Play School*. 10.50 *Willow the Wisp*. (r)
- 10.55** *Five to Eleven*. T.P. McKenna with a thought for the day.
- 11.00** News and weather 11.05 *Gardeners' World*. (r) 11.05 *Open Air*. (includes news and weather at 12.00)
- 12.25** *Wildlife Showcase*. Wildlifebeat migrate across Kenya's swift-flowing Mara river. (r) 12.55 Regional news and weather.
- 1.00** One O'Clock News with Mervyn Lewis. Weather. 1.25 *Neighbours*. Helen helps Victor find his daughter. 1.45 *Honey Colley*. (r)
- 2.00** *Anzacs*. A new five-part drama series, to be shown on consecutive afternoons, about a group of Australians who enlisted for the campaign of the First World War but found the reality to be somewhat different.



Laila, Gian Sammarco (as Adrian), and Stephen Moore: The Growing Pains of Adrian Mole (ITV, 8.40pm)

BBC 2

- 9.00** *Coolest*. 1.35 *Sign Extra*. A repeat of yesterday's programme about painting outdoors, adapted for the hearing impaired.
- 2.00** News and weather. 2.20 *Lazarelli*. Western adventures. (r)
- 2.50** *Cartoon*. She Was an Acrobat's Daughter. 3.00 News and weather. 3.05 *The Ascent of Man*. Part two of Dr Bronowski's celebrated 13-part series tracing the story of mankind. (r)
- 3.50** News, regional news and weather. 4.00 *Pamela Anderson* donates blood to the Midlands Blood Transfusion Service. wishes Eric Heffer a happy birthday, and listens to the music of Juan Martin.
- 4.35** *World Darts*. Highlights of yesterday's first round games in the Embassy World Professional Championship. 5.05 *My Music*. Light-hearted musical quiz presented by Steve Race. With Frank Muir, John Armit, Denis Norden, and Ian Wallace. (r)
- 5.30** *Did You See...?* A revised edition of yesterday's programme which included comment on Day to Day, Entertainment USA, and The Gourmet, from Fay Weldon, Polly Toynbee, and Magenta. *5.45* *Flare The Trap* (1964) starring, for the last time, Sidney Toller as the oriental sleuth, in this adventure investigating a multiple murder at a Malibu beach house. Directed by Howard Bretherton.
- 7.05** *The London Boat Show*. Paul Hiney and Caroline Hall report from Earls Court on the latest developments in the world of boating, and interviews with those behind them.
- 7.45** *Cricket Fifth Test*. Highlights of the third day's play in the match between England and Australia in Sydney.
- 8.10** *Horizon*. The Search for the Disappeared. A documentary tracing the work done by the commission set up by Argentina's President Alfonsín to probe the disappearance of 10,000 subjects in the six years leading up to the Falklands War. (see Choice)
- 8.50** *World Darts*. The closing matches in the first round of the Embassy World Professional Championship, introduced by Tony Gubba from the Lakeside Country Club.
- 10.40** *Newsnight*. The latest national and international news including extended coverage of one of the main stories of the day.
- 11.25** *Weather*. 11.30 *Teletext* presented by Carlos Riera. A lunchtime news bulletin from Mexico City's Televisa SA station.

ITV LONDON

- 6.15** TV-am presented by Mike Morris. Weather at 6.28 and 6.58 news at 6.58; sport at 6.40; and exercises at 6.55.
- 7.00** *Good Morning Britain* presented by Anne Diamond and Richard Kay. News at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; cartoon at 7.25; and Jimmy Greaves's television highlights at 8.35. After Nine includes a repeat of the Alan Alda interview. *9.00* *Clayton's advice column*; and at 9.17, exercises with Lizzie Webb.
- 9.25** *Thames news headlines* followed by *Robosport*. 9.50 *Beyond the Horizon*. The technology of the future. 10.40 *Strangest Beneath the Sea*. Sharks. (r)
- 11.05** *One Too Many*. The story of a senior high school pupil with a drink problem. 11.45 *Victor and Mia*. (r)
- 12.00** *Flicks*. Christopher Lillicrap with the story of The Carpal Who Took a Walk. (r) 12.10 *Let's Pretend* to the tale of The Sandwich Maker and the Baker.
- 12.30** *The Seaback*. A dramatized examination of the doctor-patient relationship. (r)
- 1.00** *Parkin 1.25* *Thames news*.
- 1.30** *Film Doctor at Large* (1957) starring Dirk Bogarde, Muriel Pavlow, and Donald Sinden. The third film in the comedy Doctor series, based on the books by Richard Gordon. In this, a piqued Dr Sparrow decides to leave St Swifings for a wealthy hospital after being passed over for the post of house surgeon. Directed by Ralph Thomas.
- 3.25** *Thames news headlines*. 3.50 *The Young Doctors*. Medical drama series set in a large Australian city hospital.
- 4.00** *Tickle on the Tum*. Village tales for the young. 4.10 *The Telequiz*. 4.20 *How Dare You!* with Olive White, Carrie Gray, and John Gorman. 4.30 *Roadrunner*. Cartoon. 4.45 *Dodger, Bonzo and the Rest*.

CHANNEL 4

- 2.30** *The Late Late Show*. Dublin's long-running music and chat show presented by Gay Byrne. Irish songs presented by Gordon Burns. Drinking and driving — are the Irish Government's laws sufficient to deter offenders?
- 4.00** *Mavis Nicholson* in conversation with Julie Walters and Geraldine James, the stars of the West End play, When I Was a Girl (Used to Scream and Shout), the story of a complicated relationship between a mother and her daughter.
- 4.30** *Jeopardy*. A game show for teams, presented by Dickie Davies.
- 5.00** *Hogan's Heroes*. Vintage American comedy series about a resister group of Allied prisoners-of-war, ever alert for the chance to make their captors suffer.
- 5.30** *The Abbott and Costello* Shorty and Lou are pest exterminators but when they visit a house to rid it of ants they are mistaken for psychiatrists.
- 6.00** *Children 2000*. Continuing the series charting the progress of 18 children from various backgrounds who were born in the same year as Channel 4.
- 7.00** *World in Action*. Part two of the three-part series on the examination of life in Britain as experienced by three different families. (see Choice)
- 9.00** *The Challenge*. The final part of the mini-series re-examining the dramas surrounding the 1983 America's Cup contest of Newport, Rhode Island. Starring Tim Pigott-Smith, continues after the news.
- 10.00** *The Challenge continued*. The New Avengers. Stead's demise is taken by a medium. (r)
- 12.20** *Tales From the Darkside*. An amateur warlock believes he is to win a big prize.
- 12.45** *Night Thoughts*.

VARIATIONS

- BBC1** *Wales* 5.30-6.00pm *Wales Today* 6.30-7.00pm *Wales Today* 7.30-8.00pm *Wales Today* 8.30-9.00pm *Wales Today* 9.30-10.00pm *Wales Today* 10.30-11.00pm *Wales Today* 11.30-12.00pm *Wales Today* 12.30-1.00pm *Wales Today* 1.30-2.00pm *Wales Today* 2.30-3.00pm *Wales Today* 3.30-4.00pm *Wales Today* 4.30-5.00pm *Wales Today* 5.30-6.00pm *Wales Today* 6.30-7.00pm *Wales Today* 7.30-8.00pm *Wales Today* 8.30-9.00pm *Wales Today* 9.30-10.00pm *Wales Today* 10.30-11.00pm *Wales Today* 11.30-12.00pm *Wales Today* 12.30-1.00pm *Wales Today* 1.30-2.00pm *Wales Today* 2.30-3.00pm *Wales Today* 3.30-4.00pm *Wales Today* 4.30-5.00pm *Wales Today* 5.30-6.00pm *Wales Today* 6.30-7.00pm *Wales Today* 7.30-8.00pm *Wales Today* 8.30-9.00pm *Wales Today* 9.30-10.00pm *Wales Today* 10.30-11.00pm *Wales Today* 11.30-12.00pm *Wales Today* 12.30-1.00pm *Wales Today* 1.30-2.00pm *Wales Today* 2.30-3.00pm *Wales Today* 3.30-4.00pm *Wales Today* 4.30-5.00pm *Wales Today* 5.30-6.00pm *Wales Today* 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